

GROVER HILL WELCOMES DOLLAR GENERAL: A MILESTONE FOR COMMUNITY GROWTH & PROSPERITY



Pictured above are (front row) Katelynn Hurd, Jocelyn Mabis, Aylan Stoller, Felicia Golliver, Grayson LaBounty, Carter Noffsinger, and Kolson Stoller; (back row) Erica Noggle, Tim Copsey, and Greg White.

The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce proudly announces the successful ribbon-cutting ceremony for the much-anticipated Dollar General in Grover Hill. The event took place on January 29th at 10:00 am, marking a significant milestone for the community and its residents.

The ceremony, hosted by the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce, was attended by community members, local officials, and business leaders who gathered to celebrate the completion of this long-

awaited project. The Dollar General store, strategically located in Grover Hill, is expected to be a valuable asset to the community, providing convenient and essential goods to both residents and visitors alike.

Erica Noggle, Executive Director of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce, and a Grover Hill native, expressed her excitement about the positive impact the Dollar General will have on the community. Noggle stated, "The opening of Dollar General in

Grover Hill is a significant step towards community development and improvement. This project has been a long time coming, and it is encouraging to see the positive changes it will bring."

The new Dollar General store is expected to contribute to the economic growth of Grover Hill by providing job opportunities and offering a wide range of products at affordable prices. The Chamber of Commerce believes that this development will not only

(Continued on Page 3)

FRIENDS OF THE PAULDING PARK DISTRICT TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The Friends of the Paulding Park District (FOPPD) will hold their annual meeting at Black Swamp Nature Cen-

ter, located at 753 Fairground Dr. in Paulding on Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting is open to the public and attendance is highly encouraged.

New officers will be elected and FOPPD is hoping to add new members to their board. The Friends are hoping for an increase in interest and engagement moving forward as there is much growth and improvement taking place within our parks over the next few years.

FOPPD's mission is "to promote and support the Paulding County Park District for the benefit of all" and meets at 5:40 p.m. every second Thursday of the month at

the Small Business Innovation Center (SBIC), located at 103 E Perry St in Paulding.

For more information and for ways to get involved, visit their Facebook page at Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc, or call 419-594-3659.

ON GOLDEN POND AT THE HUBER

The Huber Opera House is pleased to present "On Golden Pond" on February 16, 17 and 18, 2024. Tickets still available at huberopera-house.org or at the door for all three showings on Friday at 7 pm, Saturday 7pm or Sunday at 2:30 pm. Come and enjoy this play about an elderly couple who enjoy their latest summer in a cottage on a Maine lake, as they come to terms with the husband's advancing age and his ongoing estrangement from his newly engaged daughter.

This is the love story of Ethel (played by Colleen Richter) and Norman Thayer (Dan Bulau), who are return-

(Continued on Page 4)

DEPUTY K9 COOPER RETIRES



The Paulding County Sheriff's Office is celebrating K9 Cooper's 10th birthday, as well as his retirement. Cooper was purchased with a generous donation from the Cooper Family Foundation.

"I remember when Caleb and I went to pick out this dog. We discussed how fitting to name him Cooper in honor of the Cooper Family Foundation. I believe Caleb and K9 Cooper have lived up to the standards the Cooper family would expect, and I am very thankful of their support of the sheriff's office," said Sheriff

Jason K. Landers.

K9 Cooper was born January 29, 2014, purchased by PCSO on March 24, 2015, and put into service after extensive training on July 17, 2015. K9 Cooper was assigned to Deputy Caleb Miller, and the two spent 15 weeks completing the canine academy in Allen County, Indiana. K9 Cooper was imprinted to alert to marijuana, cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin. During his tenure on patrol, K9 Cooper alerted to all of the aforementioned il-

(Continued on Page 2)

NSCC CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING TO PRESENT PROGRAM ON "THE RESERVOIR WAR" (1874-1888)

The Center for Lifelong Learning is pleased to welcome Jerett W. Godeke on Friday, February 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until noon to speak about The Reservoir War: A History of Ohio's Forgotten Riot in America's Gilded Age, 1874-1888 in Room A202 at

the Archbold campus. Jerett is a local and public historian from Antwerp. He graduated from Northwest State in 2018, earned his Bachelor's in History from Lake Superior State University in 2019, and his Master's in History from BGSU in 2022.

Adults 50 and over are invited to attend the special program, presented by the NSCC Center for Lifelong Learning

(Continued on Page 4)

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Ron Burt Ohio Sport Blitz	8
Schaffer FH - Tressler obit	2
Schmucker Construction	1
Schrader Auction	10
TAZ Construction	1
United Edge Auctions	10

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

Community Calendar MON & WED

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

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 13

- Friends of Park District board meeting, Fairgrounds, 5:30pm

February 14

- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p
- Ash Wed. Svc @ St. John Luth Ch., Hicksville, 6:30pm

February 16

- NSCC board meeting @ Archbold campus, 11:30am

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

March 6

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



Add your event to the calendar
info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



HICKSVILLE, OH
Susan A. (Gillen) Cole, age 71, passed away on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at her home in Hicksville, OH.

Susan was born on November 1, 1952 to the late William and Eileen (Strabele) Gillen in Paulding, OH. On February 11, 1983 she married David J. Cole, who preceded her in death on August 27, 2023. Susan was a nurse manager at Paulding County Hospital for 18 years. She was also a court reporter in Defiance and Putnam counties. Susan loved to travel. During her life, she visited 18 countries, even working in Juarez, Mexico for two summers.

Susan will be lovingly missed by her son, Dustin Cole, Hicksville, OH; adopted daughter, Billie Jo Moore, Hicksville, OH; stepson, Deejay (Christen) Cole, Junction City, KS; stepdaughter, LenaRose (Cort) Jensen, OK; brother, Jon Gillen, Chillicothe, OH; sister, Kerry (Steve) Rauch, Auburn, IN; grandchildren: Aiden and Hunter Cole, Karson and Kaylynn Crites, Rylynn and Henry Hudson.

Susan was also preceded in death by her brother, Frank Gillen and sister, Gerry Krynock.

Visitation will be held from 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home. There will be a rosary service beginning at 12:00 P.M. Burial will follow in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville, OH.

Memorial contributions may be made in Susan's memory to Sisters of St. Francis, Mission Advancement Office, 200 St. Francis Ave., Tiffin, OH 44883.

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



DEFIANCE, OH:
Kerrie Ann Tressler, age 50 of Defiance, peacefully passed away surrounded by her family on Sunday, January 28, 2024 at CHP Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center.

She was born on April 14, 1973 to Kay (Glass) and Donald "Donnie" Dodson Jr. in Paulding, Ohio. On September 28, 2011 she married Brian Tressler, who survives. Kerrie worked for several years as a Home Health Aide. She treasured her time spent with

her family. She enjoyed fishing, gardening and flowers. She loved hummingbirds and animals, especially her ducks. Kerrie was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, and will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

Kerrie is survived by her husband of twelve years, Brian Tressler of Defiance, her mother, Kay Ann (Fred) McBroom of Defiance, and her children, Kayla (Johnathon) Prowant of Cloverdale, OH, Robert Deitrick of Bluffton, OH, Kolton Tressler of Defiance, and stepsons, Jason Tressler and Lance Phillips, both of Castlewood, VA. She also leaves behind five grandchildren, her brother, Kelly Dodson of Defiance, sister Alicia (Shane) Bishop of Continental, OH, brothers-in-law, Tom Mayes of Van Wert, OH and Jeff Tressler of Hanesport, NJ, and her sister-in-law, Sherri Tackett of Archbold, OH.

She was preceded in death by her father, Donald Dodson, Jr., father-in-law, Dale Tressler, and her sister, Tina Mayes.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Schaffer Funeral Home in Defiance. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Monday, February 5, 2024 at the funeral home, with Pastor Pat Holt officiating.

Memorials are suggested to ALS Association at Parkview in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Online condolences can be given at www.Schafferfh.com.

PAULDING, OH:

Patricia Ann Buchman, age 86, passed away on Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, IN.

Patricia was born on December 8, 1937 in Delphos, OH to the late Harry and Margaret (O'Neil) Rohr. On February 15, 1958 she married James Buchman, who preceded her in death on December 16, 2013. Patricia spent her life creating a loving home for her family. Over the years, she worked at P.C. Workshop and Paulding County Hospital in the kitchen. She was a member of Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, Paulding. Patricia loved spending time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren, reading, gardening, and her little dog, Max.

Patricia will be missed by her children: Liz Pessefall, Paulding, OH; Robert Buchman, Haviland, OH; grandchildren: David Walker, Emma (Brandon) Smith, Eric (Sherrin Schmidt) Buchman, Scott (Jessica) Buchman; great grandchildren: Waylon, Mia, and Theo; sisters: Marjorie (Harry) Mobley, Paulding, OH; Mary Lou (Ronald) Mapes, Paulding, OH.

Along with her parents and husband, Patricia was preceded in death by her sister, LaVerne Burleson.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Burial will take place in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township, OH.

The family requests no flowers or funeral memorabilia, but should you wish, contributions may be made in Patricia's memory to an organization of your choosing.

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

PHS ANNOUNCES JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School recently announced their January Students of the Month. Pictured above are the student of the month recipients (l-r) Freshman Vivienne Myer, Sophomore Kaitlynn Breedlove, Junior Grace Goyings, and Senior Adam Stahl.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN ANNOUNCES ASH WEDNESDAY/ LENTEN SCHEDULE

St John Lutheran, 812 East High Street, Hicksville announces their Ash Wednesday and Lenten Schedule. On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. The church will have one service on February 14 at 6:30 pm. The service will include the imposition of ashes. We will be using Creative Communications series "Guided to the Cross" for our Lenten Services. We will offer a mid-week service on Wednesdays at 11 am and 6:30 pm which will be held in our Fireplace Room. Questions can be directed to 419-542-6269. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

PARSON TO PERSON

By: Dr. James Bachman

Dear Parson,
If salvation is not by works, how do you explain John 5:28-29 - "...all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

"Doing good" in this passage is a description of the saved, not a cause of their salvation. This term is often used in the Bible commensurate with being a saved person. The normal growing Christian starts to have a life-change towards good from the time of his salvation if he begins to feed on God's Word. I

(Cooper retires ... continued from Page 1)

legal substances leading to criminal charges and convictions of numerous suspects.

"Caleb and Cooper have been a fantastic team over the past eight plus years. They were part of one of the largest seizures of drugs in Paulding County, being one kilogram of meth," said Sheriff. Landers. "Cooper is probably the most obedient dog I've been around, and that's a testament to the time Caleb has spent working with him over the years. We're sad to see Cooper retire, but grateful he will get to relax with Caleb's family

Peter 2:2 - "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby."

Also the meaning of the term "doing good" is deeper than our common understanding. It is far more than doing the right thing. It must be done through faith in the power of God. Hebrews 11:6 - "Without faith it is impossible to please him." It must also be done out of a pure motive of love for God and others - I Corinthians 13:1-3. Without pure faith and love, it does not count for righteousness. Galatians 5:6 - "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love." This can only be accomplished by born-again Christians, because that kind of faith and love is only available in Christ Jesus. Mere human righteousness is in the sight of God as filthy rags. Isaiah 64:6 - "But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rages; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away."

The dying thief on the cross had no good works to offer for salvation. He simply called in faith on Jesus Christ, who responded, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" - Luke 23:43.

Ephesians 2:8-9 still says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

Send questions and comments to: jamesbachman@juno.com

and enjoy the next chapter of life."

During K9 Cooper's years on patrol, he has been a part of not only alerting to narcotics, but tracking wanted persons, locating missing persons or persons suffering from mental health crises, conducting sniffs for illegal substances in schools or businesses and showing off during many public demonstrations about police dogs.

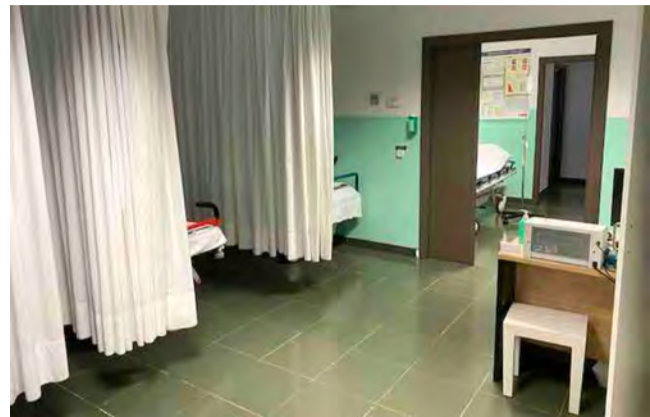
K9 Cooper's last shift is January 31, 2024. The Sheriff's Office still has two canine's in-service. The Sheriff is looking over options to add another dog to replace Cooper in the future.

Scripture of the Week

"However, as it is written: "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" — the things God has prepared for those who love him."

— 1 Corinthians 2:9

MATT'S MISHAPS



The post-procedure room was filled with beds separated by curtains. I thought I was hearing a man snoring loudly from the anesthesia in one of the "curtain cubicles." The nurse informed us that the burbling sound was not post-procedure snoring.

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

—Matt



Mis-scheduled Milestone

On turning fifty years of age, AARP sent me information to join their ranks of old folks. I am now half a century old and considered an antique by automobile standards. I would be a youngster if I was a giant tortoise that can live two-hundred years. I already move as slow as one.

On returning from a work trip days before turning fifty, my wife with a smile on her face, informed me that she had scheduled a colonoscopy for me without consulting me. I didn't put up a fight that I couldn't win. I began the protocol of eating bland foods the few days before the medical procedure at our overseas hospital. It was followed by a day of liquid diet, which meant that it was a day near the toilet. When nearing the last leg before the procedure, I downed fizzy medicine and drank the required three liters of fluid. I heard gurgles and squeals coming from my body that disturbed me.

My wife was required to accompany me to the hospital on the fateful day in my gurgling state and to make sure I got home safely afterwards. I brought a pile of cash with me because the hospital required full payment before the procedure, and their credit card machine regularly malfunctioned.

and let me hear your story! mattsmishaps@gmail.com Matt's Mishaps, PO BOX 114, Grabill, IN 46741

tioned. I did not want to get to the hospital after these last eventful dietary days to be turned away as I couldn't make payment.

After giving my name at the front desk, I was told by the receptionist that I was not scheduled for that day, but a month later. Using emotion and gasps, with some words too, I made it clear that I was not going to leave until the procedure was completed or I might violate the eleventh commandment (Thou shalt not whimper and make a scene in a hospital lobby). The receptionist restated that I was not scheduled for that day and that I must have misheard the scheduling operator who was wearing a mask. I could distinguish between February and March through a mask, and the discussion went on. Eventually the receptionist said she would call a supervisor.

Fifteen minutes later I was relieved to be approached by a nurse who said she would accompany me to the area for the procedure. I put my items in a locker, put on the robe, laid on a stretcher like bed, they put the IV in my arm, and the doctor began asking me questions. The last thing I remember was saying that I was from Indiana and missed eating corn on the cob, and the next thing I know I was waking up in a space enclosed by curtains.

A month later I was walking with my wife to the hospital for her first colonoscopy. She takes the warnings on the pre-procedure legal sheet too seriously and said to me without a smile on her face now, "I could have major complications from this." I replied to her, "Not so much drama, you could have greater complications from not doing it."

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

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



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 10:15 a.m. Worship Service



WHEN YOU FIND IT

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

I don't want to stay in, but I don't want to go out; I don't want to bake, cook, or deep fry, but I really don't want to eat; I don't want to play the piano and I don't want to listen to music; I don't want to watch TV; don't want to take a walk or go to the park; don't want to go to the movies, but I might want to see one; I don't want to curl my hair, but I don't want it straight; I don't want any coffee, tea or hot chocolate, but a donut may be good; I don't want to read, write or do a puzzle; so, I really do not know what I want, where it is, or how to get it....

Sometimes we can sit and just stay home and think. I think of what to eat for supper, what to wear to a gig, what's the weather doing, who died, and who got arrested.

I see sad news about abandoned animals, sick children, wars, drugs and murders. I think of mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers and I wonder what everyone is doing.

Sometimes my thoughts run rampant and I think about those with no food,

home or shelter. My heart goes out to all who are living sadly from one meal to the next.

With a caring heart and a humble mind, I realize that I do have what I need. We can say that we need something or want something. Of course I want to win the lottery but I have to buy a ticket first. I want to go on a cruise, but I hate water and would probably get sea sick.

So I don't know exactly what I want, but I do know that every single person and every living creature needs love. Love from our mothers, fathers, sisters and



brothers.

We need to know that love from family and friends and know about the Love of God.

I may want this or that or that or this, but so thankful my needs are being met.

Do you know everything you want? I do and I don't. So back to square one. If you know that you want, when you want it or what it is, let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.

VAN WERT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES REVERSE RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society will be hosting the 8th Annual Reverse Raffle on March 23, 2024 at the Junior Fair Building on The Van Wert County Fairgrounds. Doors open at 5:00 p.m. with dinner served at 6:00 p.m.

This annual fundraiser is the first and largest fundraiser the Van Wert County Agricultural Society hosts all year. It includes multiple opportunities to win prizes, a 50/50 drawing, silent and live auction items and more. The event will be catered by Gibson's Barnyard BBQ.

There are only 300 raffle tickets available. Both tickets include a catered meal, com-

QUILT DONATED TO THE HICKSVILLE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE



Shown here are Loretta Scott (L) of the Piecemakers and Diane Collins of the Beautification Committee with the flower-themed Dresden Plate pattern quilt that will be awarded in the spring.

Recently the Hicksville Piecemakers Quilt Group donated a quilt to the Hicksville Beautification Committee to assist with their fundraising efforts. The Beautification Committee will raffle off the quilt, with the winning ticket to be drawn at the annual plant event on Mother's Day weekend. For information contact HBC members Diane Collins, Bobbi Sinn, Susan Mack, Kelsey Klepper, DeDe Walters, Cathy Dull, and Dawn Ish. Piecemakers members may also be contacted. Proceeds will be shared by the two groups to help fund their continuing work in the community.

The Beautification Committee is responsible for planting beds, baskets, gardens, and trees in Hicksville and for

keeping them watered and groomed. HBC also supports school and library programs, seed banks and other related activities. Their annual plant sale helps provide area residents with a large variety of beautiful and healthy vegetable and flowering plants.

Piecemakers, now in their 24th year, have made and gifted quilts to individuals and groups in support of sickness and disaster relief in the community and beyond. A quilt is given each year to a veteran and quilts have been donated to support fundraising efforts for many area projects.

Both groups are non-profit, 501(c)3 organizations under the umbrella of the Community Service Center.

plimentary drinks and the ability to participate in the various activities held during the event. New this year, groups of 8 can secure a special reserved table, but a limited quantity are available.

For more information visit the Van Wert County Fair office located at 1055 S. Washington St. in Van Wert, OH or by contact any Fair Board Director.

VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED ON THE OHIO TURNPIKE SET RECORD IN 2023; E-ZPASS USE INCREASES

The Ohio Turnpike's passenger car and commercial truck customers traveled a record 3,131,669,772 miles, up 2.2% in 2023 compared to 3,063,794,240 miles in 2022.

Separately, passenger car customers traveled 1,936,873,837 miles, up 5.2% in 2023 compared to 1,841,860,120 miles in 2022; and commercial truck customers traveled 1,194,795,935 miles, down 2.2% from a record 1,221,934,120 miles traveled in 2022.

In 2023, the combined

number of vehicle trips on the Ohio Turnpike was 50,722,769, up 2.3% compared to 49,567,827 trips in 2022.

Passenger car customers completed 38,165,196 trips, up 3.9% compared to 36,736,443 trips in 2022; and commercial truck customers completed 12,557,573 trips, down 2.1% compared to a record 12,831,384 trips in 2022.

In addition, E-ZPass use on the Ohio Turnpike continued to increase in 2023. Combined E-ZPass use by passenger car and commercial truck customers was 74.1%, up 0.7% compared to 73.6% 2022.

Separately, 64.5% of passenger car customers used E-ZPass, up 2.1% in 2023; and 89.6% of commercial truck customers used E-ZPass, up 0.4% in 2023.

E-ZPass customers with passenger vehicles can save an average of about 33% on Ohio Turnpike tolls compared to customers who pay by cash or by credit card. E-ZPass toll rates are calculated and deducted electronically from prepaid account balances.

(Grover Hill ... continued from Page 1)

benefit residents but also attract visitors, contributing to the vibrancy of the community.

The Chamber extends its gratitude to all those who sup-

ported and contributed to the realization of this project. The ribbon-cutting ceremony symbolizes the beginning of a new chapter for Grover Hill, showcasing the commitment to community growth and prosperity.

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.

Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net

Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Lawrence E. Lighthill was born in Oakwood, Ohio April 4, 1892. The son of Dallas Buchanan born November 27, 1856 in Mansfield, Ohio and Amanda (Thrasher) Lighthill born July 15, 1860 in Ohio. This couple was married November 12, 1879. By 1880 this couple was living in Brown Township. Dallas was a farmer. By 1890 this couple was blessed with children. Irvin C. born December 4, 1882, who became a school teacher at the age of seventeen. Reuban M. July 1884, Lester V. December 1886, Alice M. October 1888, Lawrence E. was born 1892.

On June 20, 1899, Amanda passed away. She was buried in Prairie Chapel Cemetery. By 1900, Dallas continued to farm and the family was living in Brown Township, and the children were in school. By 1910, Dallas and children Vernon, a barber running his own shop, Alice keeping house, and Lawrence a farm laborer. Lawrence joined the National Army February 7, 1912 at Columbus Barracks. He was serving in the 18th Infantry and was Honorably Discharged February 6, 1915. On February 11, 1915 he re-enlisted Serving at Ft. McDowell, California. As war loomed in Europe, Lawrence was promoted to cook from private June 1, 1915.

He served with Company L. 15th Infantry, until August 22, 1916. During that time served, he was a private and cook. While serving in China, during the years of 1917 and 1918, he was promoted to Corporal Novem-

ber 1, 1918. He was Honorably Discharged November 1, 1918. His brother, Lester Vernon, registered June 4, 1917 and was working at Troy Wagon Works, Troy, Ohio. He came back to Brown Township to register, medium height and build, blue eyes, brown hair and single, and was called serve, May 25, 1918. He served with 309th Trench Mortar Battery. On September 17, 1918, Lester boarded the ship, "Maunganaito", in New York to go to France.

On December 31, 1918, he boarded the ship, "Seattle", at Brest, France and set sail for home. His term of enlistment ended January 12, 1919. He was be Honorably Discharged January 28, 1919. Irvin registered in Chicago, and was working as a brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, he was not selected. Sometime after 1920, Lawrence married a gal named Mary K., born February 1, 1880, in California. Records stopped me from finding more information.

In 1925, Lawrence was a Staff Sergeant, serving in Hawaii. By 1930, the Lighthill's were living in Los Angeles, California on South Hope Street. He was working as a clerk at a retail mill, I believe this was a military base. By 1940 the couple was living in San Antonio, Texas, at Ft. Sam Houston. Lawrence was still in the military working on base and held the rank of tech sergeant.

Lawrence registered for the World War Two draft in 1942. Lawrence retired from the military in 1948. By 1950, Lawrence and Mary were living in Dayton, Ohio on West 4th Street. On December 25, 1951, Lawrence passed away in Bexar, County, Texas at the hospital. He was buried in San Antonio, Texas at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Section K. site 186.

On December 25, 1955, Mary K. Lighthill joined him, she was buried in site 185. They had no children. (Notice they both passed away on Christmas).

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PJH WRESTLERS VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL FOOD PANTRY



On Saturday, January 27th members of the Paulding Junior High wrestling team volunteered at the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in Paulding, Ohio. Shown above are (l-r) Maggie Hayes, Magdiel Lopez Santiago, Brady Hayes, Coach Sheridan Matty, Owen Workman, and Braydon Jacobs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN FEBRUARY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is celebrating the month of Love. Stop in to get warm and browse our collection, need a library card we can help with that also, just bring a photo idea with the correct address or something that shows the current address. Library cards are free. The library will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of President's Day.

The February Board of Trustees meeting is Tuesday, February 20th at 5:30.

MAIN BRANCH

The Adult section of the library will host the Black Swamp Bookworms on the second Tuesday of each month in 2024. The next meeting is Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. The group is reading "Remarkably Bright Creatures" by Shelby Van Pelt. If you would like to join, call the library for more information and to reserve your copy of the book. Coffee Talk continues every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Cookbook club will be on Monday, February 26 at 5:30 p.m., bring a dish and recipe to share. This month theme is "MY FAVORITE RECIPE". "Coffee Talk" is held every Thursday at 1:00 p.m., join us for a snack and some lively conversation! Bring a friend or meet some new friends while you are here.

On February 22nd we will be celebrating two years of "Coffee Talk". Following Coffee Talk, at 2:00 p.m. every Thursday, join "Eva Sharron Kobee for Knitting, Purl and Simple". She will help you with your knitting skills and enter-

tain you with her wit and wisdom! All supplies are provided. Due to weather concerns, call ahead and make sure it's on.

From Monday, February 12 to Wednesday February 14 make sure to stop by for a "Be My Valentine" treat while supplies last. Teen Cookbook club will meet at 4:00 p.m. on February 26. All supplies are provided, and you will make a delicious treat. The teen participants are invited to stay for the Adult Cookbook Club at 5:30 p.m.

Every Tuesday and Wednesday this month, stop by for a make and take craft project. Do it here and take it with you. This is geared towards teens and adults. All materials provided. Bring some friends! It's a fun time. Call ahead if you want so we'll have it ready for you, while supplies last.

A Retirement Workshop is being held on Wednesday, February 14 at 2:00 p.m. The topic this month will be "Retirement You Can't Outlive". Come and let the experts answer your retirement questions.

A different topic every month, second Wednesday of each month until further notice. Tuesday, February 27 at 1:00 p.m., we will continue a new monthly series titled "A Year of Living Frugal" with Carla Morris. Join us as Carla shares all kinds of partial information on making the most of your money and cutting down on waste, among other things. We will include a brief overview of the topics that will be covered throughout the year. Don't miss this one! This program will be held at 1:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month. There

are new programs being planned all the time! Call us at 419-399-2032 for details as they are available, or watch our facebook page; PAULDING COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY.

The Children's room offers Story time every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. It is a fun hour of stories, music, crafts and a snack. There will be a "Be My Valentine" program on Monday February 12th at 5:30 p.m. Space is limited so call the children's room at 419-399-2032 to reserve your spot. Still time to get your "Reading is So Much Fun" reading log for the Winter Reading Program. It runs through March 1st.

ANTWERP BRANCH

The Antwerp Branch will have Adult Book Club on Monday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m. Cookbook Club is Monday, February 26th at 5:45 p.m. Storytime is every Wednesday at 11:30 p.m. Craft Fridays all ages anytime 1-5. "I spy" game in display case for the whole month. Come spot things that are red.

GROVER HILL

The Grover Hill Branch will be starting February 1st with their sign-up for the monthly drawing. Reading is Snow Much Fun program continues through February. Mondays February 5th and 26th at 10:30 p.m. are the Munchkin Club story time. The second Thursday of the month, February 8th, is the Senior Bingo ages 50+ at 1:00 p.m. Free Friday make/take crafts themed for National Bird Feeding month will be available. Wednesday, February 28th GHBL Book Club will meet at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the book *The Atomic Weight of Love* by Elizabeth J. Church. This luminous story about ambition, birds, relations, sacrifice science and the late blooming of an unforgettable woman will enthrall your heart and soul. The month ends Thursday, February 29th with a leap year celebration of artisan bread mak-

(NSCC ... continued from Page 1)

(CFL) at the Archbold Campus on Friday, February 16 in room A202. A full hot breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. for this presentation.

TO SAVE YOUR SPOT, AND FOR MORE INFORMATION...

ing. Join us and the special guest, Stephanie of the Antwerp Branch Library at 5:30 p.m. All supplies will be provided, but please bring a bowl or vessel to take out the bread dough you make here and bake at home. There are ten limited spots for this program designed for the ages of teens and adults. The monthly drawing will be after the bread class on February 29th.

OAKWOOD BRANCH

The Oakwood Branch will host Story time every Monday at 11:00 a.m. Kids come in and check out a book and take home a valentines day cookie house to decorate. February 1st kids can stop in and pick up a valentine tic tac toe kit. Also on February 1st, adults can sign up to do a Valentine's Day themed machine embroidered towel. February 5th, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. adults can sign up to learn how to clean the air in their home naturally, we will be making smudge sticks. Tuesday, February 6 at 11:00 a.m. will be our Good Morning Book Club. Thursday, February 8 at 11:30 a.m. will be our Senior Luncheon Bingo. February 12 don't miss out on our Facebook Trivia. The winner will be announced February 13. February 22, 5:00-6:00 p.m. we will be making homegrown herbal tea bags, adult sign-up required. February 24 we will host Family Book Bingo at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, February 26 will be our Quilt Block of the month class 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Stop in and pick up your quilt packet.

PAYNE BRANCH

The Payne Branch will be having a Valentine Party for kids on February 6th from 3:30-5:00 p.m. The Wayne Trace Art Club will be here for games, crafts and fun! February 8th at 1:00 p.m., will be a Valentine Canvas Paint class for adults. Sign up is required please call 419-263-3333. February 21st at 6:00 p.m. we will be hosting The Winter Blah's class. Learn how to support your emotions through the cold months with uplifting oils. Do you love True Crime? We will be hosting a True Crime Book club on February 29th at 6:00 p.m. Join us and share your true crime story. Story time will be February 13th and the 27th at 11:00 a.m., there will be stories and crafts. Come join us. Coffee Talk will be February 21st at 1:00 p.m. Join us for conversation and we do have coffee. Follow us on facebook for more fun at PBL.

The Friends of the Paulding County Carnegie Library annual registration began December 1, 2023. Everyone is welcome to become a Friends' member. The next meeting is Monday, February 12th at 6:00 p.m. upstairs at Main. The Friends Group will be having a workday at the Buy the Book on Monday Febru-

Reservations are now being accepted for this special CFLL program, by calling Deb Wikstrom at 419.944.6195, or by email at dwikstrom@NorthwestState.edu. For more information on the CFLL, and other upcoming programs, please visit NorthwestState.edu/lifelong-learning.

Have a wedding, engagement or anniversary? Let your friends and neighbors know for FREE in West Bend News (photos are \$12 in black & white) 419-258-2000

PAULDING FFA GETS A TRIPLE CROWN ON OFFICER BOOKS



Pictured here are the Gold Rated FFA officers with their books. Left to right: Jalyne Klopfenstein, Grace Goyings and Tyler Schlatter.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

At the end of January, the Paulding FFA secretary, treasurer, and reporter's books were evaluated and graded. The chapter received not only a GOLD rating on all three books but they all also got a perfect score.

The chapter is so proud of Jalyne Klopfenstein, Tyler Schlatter, and Grace Goyings for all of their hard work in earning a triple crown for their chapter. For the secretary book, Jalyne had to collect all of the meeting minutes and agendas for the year. She also had to write programs for the activities, keep attendance records, and collect correspondence from this school year.

For the treasurer book, Tyler had to take month-by-month reports and balance

the account based on what came in, and what is left in the account. He had to figure out each student's financial records and kept records of the receipts and disbursements. Tyler also had to keep reports of the beginning and ending balance for each meeting.

For the reporter book, Grace wrote and then collected newspaper articles and pictures throughout the year to use in the scrapbook. She had to put captions under all the pictures she used and make sure that every page was full of colors and decorative stickers. These officers did an amazing job and our chapter is very proud of all of the hard work that they put into their books. They will each get to walk across the stage at the Ohio FFA State Convention in May for their Gold Ratings.

ary 19th at 10:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome to come and help. Regular bookstore hours in 2024 are Saturdays 9:00

a.m. - 12:00 Noon, Wednesdays 3:30-6:30 p.m. Check us out!

(Huber ... continued from Page 1)

ing to their summer home on Golden Pond for the forty-eighth year. He is a retired professor, nearing eighty, with heart palpitations and a failing memory—but still as tart-tongued, observant, and eager for life as ever. Ethel, ten years younger, and the perfect foil for Norman, delights in all the small things that have enriched and continue to enrich their long life together. They are visited by their divorced, middle-aged daughter Chelsea (Kathy Kennedy) and her dentist fiancé (Jason Williams), who then go off to Europe, leaving his teenage son (Henry Gerschutz) behind for the summer. The boy

quickly becomes the "grandchild" the elderly couple have longed for, and as Norman revels in taking his ward fishing and thrusting good books at him, he also learns some lessons about modern teenage awareness—and slang—in return. Neighbor and Chelsea's former boyfriend, Charlie (Cord Ehrhart) adds to the plot. In the end, as the summer wanes, so does their brief idyll, and in the final, deeply moving moments of the play, Norman and Ethel are brought even closer together by the incidence of a mild heart attack. Time, they know, is now against them, but the years have been good and, perhaps, another summer on Golden Pond still awaits.

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Written by Ernest Thompson

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Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. to be considered for the next publication. We reserve the right to edit for length, content and worthiness. email: info@westbendnews.net fax: 419-258-1313 USPS: West Bend News PO Box 1008 Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TRIBUTE TO A LADY
This is in memory of one of God's most genuine followers and one of Hicksville's finest. I first met her shortly after the end of WWII in 1945. She was at my grandparents home at 405 S. Main St, Hicksville. She wasn't rich or famous, she was just herself and God's and liked by all. Everything she needed was right here in Hicksville. She never

drove a car, she just walked and worked at Mentzer's five and dime store so long she was almost a fixture. I believe most kids liked her but I doubt many knew her name so here it is... Violet Onstott. My wife's granddaughter, Heidi, loved Violet so much that she named her daughter Ivielle Violet. Heidi visited Violet often through the years. Sandy and I also visited Violet. I think Violet liked my Christian based letters because in 2010 at 98, she asked me if I could write a letter based on Jeremiah 50: 6-7. Doing this at her request was the greatest honor I could ever receive. When Violet turned 100, my oldest stepson, Brian Keegan, gave her a ride on his Harley.. They went south out of town because Violet wanted to go fast. Later, when she was 101, Brian picked her up at Hicksville nursing home for one last slow ride around Hicksville.

Violet was quite the writer. She had many many articles published and lots of notebooks full of her thoughts and writings. I believe Turk Guilford got her writing when she left our world at 101. The following poem was published in her church paper around 1990.

TAKE UP MY CROSS
By: Violet Onstott
Take up my cross? But Lord, it's so crude.
People wouldn't understand, they'd be cruel and rude.
Besides it would mean death for all my plans for living.
To bear my cross would mean sacrifice and giving.
I'd rather be a part time saint, pay my tithes and pray
I'll wear a cross around my

neck and share Jesus on the way.
The cross seems cruel and out of style
I'll serve you in a modern way,
And think about it for a while,
I'll get back to you some future day,
But Lord don't you understand?
I don't want to suffer pain
I don't want to be humiliated
I've got the world to gain.
You say I can't follow you without a cross
I must deny myself and suffer loss.
—Is This A Vision—
I see you upon a tree
You end all this, just for me?
Oh, I see it plainly now
Why did I ever stray
I'll shoulder up my cross
And carry it each day.
I think Violet would be greatly disappointed at how far we've fallen in the short time she has been gone. Where do you stand? Have you taken up your cross or do you have the world to gain? We are quickly running out of time which means you can't have it both ways. It's soon going to be Heaven or Hell. Do you know the difference or even care?

—Richard Mastin
Hicksville, OH

LEPC MEETS IN PAULDING

The Local Emergency Planning Committee met on the last day of January 2024 with lunch from Red Angel Pizza to discuss important safety functions in the county. Ed Bohn introduced Jake Burgbacher from Hardin County. He comes from State work and he is LEPC's newest Specialist. He will be working with Anita in this region and will be shadowing her in the community to find out what is needed in the area. Prior to working with the State he worked with the Hardin County Sheriff's office and Emergency Dispatch. He will be coming to as many events as possible for the area. Ed Bohn copied May's meeting minutes and they were approved. Bohn then read the year-in-review for the finances. The balance at the end of the year was \$28,985.73. Revenue for 2023 was \$15,485.73.

The mitigation plan has been approved by FEMA, and Bohn stated that the Commissioners will need to approve for the county. Bohn also plans to visit the Councils about the funds dispersion for equip-

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ment.
The Total Solar Eclipse committee evening went really well and was attended with twenty-seven people. The fair board may use the fairgrounds camping facilities as a fundraiser during the eclipse. As of right now all of the outdoor warning sirens are in working order. There have not been a lot of response, but the ones that have them, said they are working. 911 Coordinator, Matt McDougall, gave a report on the reporting of the sirens. Mark Holtsberry asked about receiving the formal letter for the Commissioners to approve the FEMA grant when Prosecutor Joe Burkard finalizes a resolution. Bohn said not all of the sirens will be replaced, but at minimum, the four that are outdated or failing.

LEPC HAZMAT exercise must be done before the end of June. A tabletop simulated annual exercise is scheduled for May 14 at 6:00 p.m. This will be a tanker in the Auglaize River. This will be at SR637 and SR111. The HAZMAT training for first responders awareness is to be scheduled also.

HAZMAT EMS training with the hospital is scheduled for the end of April. Railroad emergency training is looking at April for this training. The training facility will be used by two facilities from Putnam County this year. A Training burn is scheduled for a Saturday in March. The training center will be inspected soon for structural issues.

The round table was there to close the meeting. Mayor White told the group that Taco Bell is now open. The new Sunoco fuel station is also being built and probably won't be finished by June. KofC Fish Fries start February 16. The county audit is doing well. Dollar General in Grover Hill opened with the help of the Land Bank and PCED director, Tim Copsey. The old Depot was also torn down and the old Ross's station is being cleaned out now. Sales taxes are strong, but so are expenses. CERT helped with a couple of fires recently. Bohn will be giving some Red Cross blankets to CERT. The Junior Fire program is trying to get funded for the next year. The meeting closed at 12:51 p.m.

BENEFITS OF FIXED-INCOME INVESTMENTS

When many people think about investing, the first thing that comes to mind is the stock market. And that's not surprising, as the rise and fall of stock prices is constantly in the news. But if you're going to achieve your financial goals, you may well need to look beyond stocks and include fixed-income investments in your portfolio.

Fixed-income investments offer three important benefits:

- **Income** – When you invest in fixed-income vehicles, such as bonds, Treasury securities and certificates of deposit (CDs), you receive regular income in the form of interest payments. And you continue to receive this income until your investment matures or you sell it, no matter what's happening in the financial markets. Of course, the income you can receive from fixed-income investments will always depend on the interest rates at which these investments were issued. But if you own a mix of long-term and short-term fixed-income investments, you can gain some protection against fluctuating rates. When market rates are low, you can get greater income from your longer-term bonds, which typically — although not always — pay higher rates. And when market rates rise, you can benefit by reinvesting the proceeds from your shorter-term bonds.
- **Diversification** – If you were only to own stocks, or stock-based mutual funds, your portfolio would be susceptible to higher risks, especially with market downturns. But you may be able to reduce the impact of market volatility by adding fixed-income investments to your holdings. Bond prices often move in a different direction from stocks, so if stock prices are falling, you might find that the value of your bonds is rising. You can also diversify within the fixed-income portion of your portfolio by owning a mix of corporate and Treasury bonds, as well as CDs, just to name a few.
- **Stability** – As mentioned, you will always receive interest payments from your bonds if you hold them until maturity. But if you wanted to sell your bonds before they mature, you could get more, or less, than what you originally paid for them. When market interest rates rise, the price of your current bonds will likely fall, as no one will pay you the full price for them when they get newer ones that pay more — this is what's known as interest-rate risk. Conversely, when market rates fall, the prices of your current bonds will probably rise. But here's the key point to remember: Bond prices generally don't fluctuate as much as stock prices. In other words, bonds are typically less volatile than stocks. Consequently, owning bonds can add diversification to your portfolio. And to maximize the stabilizing effects of bonds, you may want to stick with high-quality bonds rated as "investment grade" by independent bond-rating agencies.

How much of your portfolio should consist of fixed-income investments? There's no one right answer for everyone. And over time, your interest in these types of investments may well change — for example, as you near retirement, you may want to consider shifting some of your growth-oriented investments into income-producing ones, though you'll still need some growth potential to keep up with inflation. In any case, the combination of income, diversification and stability provided by bonds and similar securities should be compelling enough for you to find a place for them in your investment mix.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- OHIO LOCATIONS**
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Edgerton: Kaiser Supermarket, USPS, Utilities Dept., H & W Napa, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library
Hicksville: Sailors, Hickory Creek Nursing Home, Shell Station, Lassus Handy Dandy, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library
Ney: 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
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Grabill: Save-A-Lot, Grabill Hardware, Grabill Country Sales
Harlan: Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank
Hoagland: Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub
Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain
Monroeville: Mel's Deli, Phillips 66, The Village of Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General
New Haven: ACP Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, McDonalds, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Old City Hall, Richard's
Woodburn: Clip-N-Tan, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress, Country Oasis, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, S&V Liquors, Post Office, Dollar General, Phoenix Manor, Chop Shop, ACP Library, Willies Cafe II

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PARKWAY WINS BATTLE OF PANTHERS



For Paulding the game was a struggle against the other Panther team with only five points in the first half. Shown here is top Paulding scorer, sophomore Addi Pease, attempting to score a 2 points under the basket! More pictures at westbendnews.net

In a battle of a pair of Panther basketball teams, it was the squad from Rockford that emerged victorious as Parkway recorded a 41-26 win over Paulding in girls basketball play in the 'Jungle' Tuesday evening.

The black and gold led at every stop in the contest, taking a 7-4 advantage after eight minutes of action before widening the gap to 15-5 at the midway point. Parkway then broke the game open with a 15-point third quarter that put the Mercer County squad on top 30-17 entering the final stanza.

Paige Williamson led the

way for Parkway with 18 points, topping all scorers in the contest.

Bryn Schoenleben added eight points for the black and gold with Megan Hughes posting five.

Brittyn Bruns (four), Audrey Nichols (four) and Adria Miller (two) completed the scoring for Parkway.

Addison Pease paced Paulding with a team high ten points and Tori Schlatter chipped in seven markers.

Kayleigh Dunham (four), Brooklyn Schlatter (three) and Brooklyn Bakle (two) rounded out the scoring for the maroon and white.

WAYNE TRACE PLACES 3 AT LCC INVITATIONAL



Graiden Troth took 7th place on the day at LLC Invitational. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Wayne Trace Wrestling Team spent two days competing in the Lima Central Catholic Invitational

on January 26th and 27th. The Invitational sees wrestlers from 36 schools from all over Ohio. At the end of the weekend, Wayne Trace was represented by 3 placers. Corbin Kimmel finished the weekend in 3rd place, Nate Osborn in 5th place, and Graiden Troth in 7th place.

There were several notable milestones for the Wrestlers at the LCC Invitational as well. Corbin Kimmel, the 120-pound Junior ended the weekend in 3rd place on the podium. Kimmel's record for the weekend was 5-1. Out of the top 100 wrestlers, Kimmel ended in 4th place for the most pins/tech falls in the least amount of time with his five wins occurring in a combined total of 8 minutes and 48 seconds. In the first round, the junior pinned his opponent Erik Cortinas in just 1:05, followed by a defeat over Bobby Tyas in just 15 seconds. Kimmel dominated the third round of championships with another pin in just 33 seconds. In the quarterfinals, Kimmel was defeated by Spencer Shore with a score of 5-0. Kimmel battled back and won by tech fall his opponent Ethan Beam with a score of 15-0. In the finals match, Kimmel dominated the entire match to pin Mason Kelsh in 4:42.

Nate Osborn, the 175-pound senior ended the weekend in 5th place with an overall record of 5-2. Osborn started the day with a pin in the first round in 3:11. In round two, the senior won by tech fall with a score of 19-2 before being defeated by

Gabe Garlick of Lakota with a score of 9-1. Osborn followed his loss with a win over Jayden Schlabach of Waynedale, the final score being 5-4. Caldwell of Woodmore then defeated Osborn with a score of 9-0 to send Nate to the 5th place match where he defeated Ethan Kohli of Bluffton with a score of 7-3.

Graiden Troth, the 144-pound senior rounded out the results with a weekend record of 5-2. Troth started the day strong with a first round pin in 1:36 but was then defeated in round two by Layton Hughes with a score of 9-8. The senior then pinned his opponent in 1:57, followed by a win over Howard with a score of 7-3. Jordan Neal of Allen East then pinned Graiden Troth in 2:20, sending him to the match for 7th place. In the final match of the day, Troth dominated Slayde Merriman and finished the match by pin in 3:40.

Other wrestlers included Colton Kimmel with a record of 0-2, Kamryn Sutton with a record of 1-2, Asa Ames with a record of 1-2, and Blake Schultz with a record of 3-2. Blake Schultz stated that "Although it isn't easy to be happy when things are hard, glory in the tribulations. Tribulations produce perseverance or endurance". The Wayne Trace Wrestling Team continues to grow and improve each week and is determined to persevere until the ultimate success is achieved. Good luck to the Raider Wrestling team as they continue their season.

PANTHERS DERAIL THE LOCOMOTIVES



Junior Kane Jones was on fire in this jump shot. Jones scored 9 points for the Panthers in this non conference matchup. More pictures at westbendnews.net

In Saturday night boys basketball action Paulding invited the Locomotives from Montpelier to the Jungle! The game started strong from the beginning for the Panthers and continued to the entire night. Top scorer was Grady Barton with 16 and follow

ingly by Casey Agler with 15 (and top 3 point shooter). Grady Barton also had the top rebounds, keeping the ball in Paulding's hands. Blake Rhonehouse scored 10, Kane Jones had 9, Greyson Hard 8, and Tytus Manz 3. The Final score was 61-47.

LADY WARRIORS ROUT PANTHERS



The queen of the court is junior Brooke Kneubuhler who led the Warriors to a decisive victory after sinking 3-point after 3-point in this matchup! More pictures at westbendnews.net

In a Friday night, non-league girls basketball contest, host Woodlan rolled to a 57-35 victory over visiting Prairie Heights.

Brooke Kneubuhler bucketed 18 points to lead the Lady Warriors with Taylor Kneubuhler chipping in 13 points and Chloe Gaff recorded nine points.

Alyssa Anderson contributed eight points for Woodlan followed by Reagan Widenhoefer (four), Kyra Elwood (three) and Makenna Smith (two).

Anderson paced the Lady Warriors on the boards with eight while Taylor and Brooke Kneubuhler each grabbed five rebounds. Gaff also had four boards to aid the Woodlan cause.

Brooke Kneubuhler also recorded six assists and three steals with Gaff dishing out four assists and picking up one steal.

Taylor Kneubuhler and Widenhoefer picked up a pair of assists as well and Anderson picked up two steals.

ARCHERS GET BOUNCE BACK WIN OVER PH

A night after falling to rival Wayne Trace, the Antwerp Archers bounced back in style with a 61-41 victory over Patrick Henry Saturday night in non-league boys basketball action.

Landon Brewer led a quartet of Archers in double figures with 18 points while Zaine McMichael chipped in 16 markers for the blue and white.

Carson Altimus also reached double digits with a dozen points for Antwerp and Reid Lichty aided the Archer cause with 11 points.

Ben Savina wrapped up the scoring for the blue and white with four points.

Patrick Henry was topped by Lincoln Creager with 22 points while Cal Schroeder and Thomas Smith both contributed six markers.

Mack Hieber aided the Patriot side with five markers and Jaden Panches added a basket.

Antwerp's junior varsity squad also rebounded from a loss to the Raiders with a dominant 40-19 victory over the Patriots.

WILDCATS SWEEP PAST RAIDERS

Visiting Miller City improved to 10-4 on the season as the Wildcats posted a 52-45 win over Wayne Trace at the 'Palace' Saturday night in non-conference boys basketball play.

The blue and gold led 13-9 at the end of one quarter before Wayne Trace trimmed the deficit to 23-20 at the midway point of the contest.

Miller City, though, broke the game open in the third quarter by scoring 17 points and limiting Wayne Trace to eight in extending the margin to 40-28.

Jude Otto led a balanced Wildcat attack with 14 points while Brendan Barlage chipped in 13 and Silas Niese recorded ten markers.

Will Otto (seven), Andon Ruhe (six) and Ethan Barlage (two) completed the Wildcat scorers.

Wayne Trace's Kyle Stoller led all scorers with 24 points in the contest while Caden Sinn and Hudson Myers each chipped in six for the Raiders. Brady Miller and Tanner Laukhuf posted five and four points, respectively, for the Raiders, who fall to 13-3.

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HOST BULLDOGS WIN WRESTLING SECTIONAL



New Haven Bulldog Wrestling team won their sectional on Saturday, January 27th, 2024. Photo by Melissa Amstutz.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association wrestling sectionals took place over the weekend with host New Haven capturing its own sectional by nipping second place Snider for the title.

The Bulldogs racked up 250 points to win the tournament with the Panthers finishing as runner-ups with 245-1/2 points. Homestead finished third at 230-1/2 followed by Leo (194), Woodlan

(89) and Heritage (74).

Winners for New Haven included Julianna Ocampo (106), Karrington Cooper (113), Easton Doster (144), Aidan Elkins (150).

Leo's Sean Harris won the title at 120 and teammate Eli Coolman was victorious at 190. Heritage's Andrew Mirelez took first place at 138 with Woodlan's Jack Culler capturing the championship in the 175 pound weight class.

Also advancing for the Lions are Jiler Gould (third, 106), Brayden Juday (third, 113), Nolan Butcher (third, 126), Joseph Perkins (third, 144), Daniel Espinosa (fourth, 150), Max Wiler (fourth, 157), Paul Woods (third, 165) and Isaiah Coolman (second, 285).

Bulldog wrestlers moving on as well include Timmy Rocha (second, 120), Bakari Cooper (fourth, 126), Bray-

den Clauser (fourth, 132), Lucas Barkley (third, 138), Ian Amstutz (third, 157), Vince Lepera (third, 175), Chase Cline (fourth, 190), Matt Poiry (second, 215) and Charles McGrant (third, 285).

Woodlan's Shaiden Snyder (third, 132) and Heritage's Logan Teichmann (fourth, 285) also advanced to the regionals.

TIGERS ROAR PAST ACES

Liberty Center opened an eight-point lead after one quarter and roared to a 65-35 victory over Hicksville in non-league girls basketball play Tuesday night in Defiance County.

The Lady Tigers held a 15-7 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action before breaking the game open with a 28-point second quarter in pushing the margin to 43-15 at the intermission.

Liberty Center took a 55-28 lead at the end of three periods before cruising through the fourth quarter for the victory.

Kennedy Adams led the Lady Aces with 11 markers in the contest while McKenna Rice and Hayden Neidhardt both chipped in six points.

Evy McAlexander added four points for Hicksville followed by Addison Sanders (three), McKenna Baird (two), Ashlyn Steury (two) and Alex Kenner (one).

The Lady Tigers were paced by Eliza Jones with 15 points and Bea Barrett posted nine markers for Liberty Center.

Other scorers for the orange and black Kailey Blanton (eight), Emerson Gray (eight), Macie Kruhn (five), Nicole Keller (four), Molly Perry (three), Emersyn Gerken (three), Maddie Bailey (three), Mackenzie Fuller (three), Addi Zientek (two) and Elle Mohler (two).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT APPROVED IN DEFIANCE COUNTY

MetalX, LLC, was recently awarded tax credit

funding that will result in local economic development and job creation in Defiance, announced State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland).

The Ohio Tax Credit Authority (TCA) approved a 1.9%, nine-year Job Creation Tax Credit for the company to build a new 190-acre location in the 82nd House District. The funding is expected to create 180 full-time positions and generate \$14.4 million in new annual payroll.

"It is great news for Defiance County that MetalX, an aluminum recycling facility, is setting up shop here," said Klopfenstein. "This investment will create new job opportunities which will help our local economy and families."

The MetalX facility will specialize in assembling, sorting, recycling, and wholesale distribution of aluminum scrap and waste materials. The plant is expected to be fully operational by early 2027.



Julie Arend, CNP



Dr. Wendell Spangler, MD



Dr. Virginia Halachanova, MD



Dr. Timothy Hogan, MD



Dr. Nigel Hogan, DO



Melanie Banks, CNP



Dr. Matthew Hogan, DO



Janet Zedyk, PA-C

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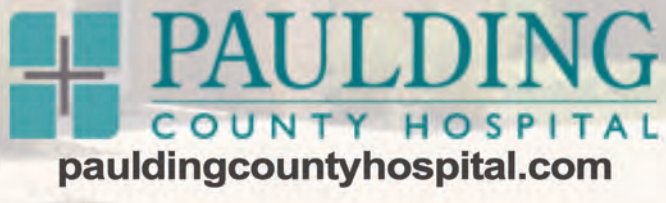
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THE LEFT TURN



305 Sprints are ready for 2024. Action Photos Ohio



Zach Wigal Moving up to the USAC National Midget Series. Campbell Photograph

By: Ron Burt

If you are a 410 Winged-Sprint Car fan last week I started talking about Attica Raceway Parks impressive 2024 schedule and the visits this class will make to the famed NW Ohio track. If you missed it, the issue is online in the West Bend News archives. My column also covered the WoO events and the Brad Doty Classic.

One 410 event I didn't have space to mention was the traditional Attica Ambush. It will take place Friday, Aug. 30 and Saturday, Aug. 31. The FAST on Dirt 410 Sprints will contend for \$6,000 to win (\$500 to start the A-main) and the UMP Late Models will battle for \$2,000 to win on Friday. On Saturday the 410 Sprints will race for \$6,000 to win (\$500 to start the A-main). There will be free camping for the weekend.

In total Callie's Performance Products sponsored 410 Sprints will compete in 21 events in 2024 including 10 of the All-Pro Aluminum Heads/Kistler Racing Products Attica Fremont Championship Series with each of those shows paying \$4,000 to win. I don't think any other Midwest short track runs this many weekly 410 Sprint shows.

The UMP Late Models



Attica Raceway Park hosts a full season of Late Model Shows. Action Photos Ohio

will battle in 20 events at Attica in 2024 with several special events. The new American Iron Man Late Model Series will make its first ever Attica appearance on Friday, May 24 paying the feature winner \$5,000 (\$500 to start) with a total A-main purse of \$22,800.

The UMP late model series mid-season championship night (double points) will be held Friday, May 31 paying \$2,000 to win as will the late model A-main during Ohio Sprint Speedweek night, Friday, June 7, the Attica Ambush on Friday, Aug. 30 and season championship night, Friday, Sept. 6. There will be four Attica/Oakshade Raceway Late Model Series events at Attica, Friday, May 10, Friday, June 21, Friday, July 28 and Friday, Aug. 23.

The Fremont Fence 305 Sprints will see action at Attica in 20 events in 2024 including 10 races with the NAPA of Bryan AFCS. The

305 sprints will compete in six events paying \$1,200 to win; Friday, April 19, Friday, May 17, Mid-Season Championship Night (double points) on Friday, May 31, Attica Ambush Night #2 on Saturday, August 31, and Season Championship Night on Friday, September 6.

The traditional Attica Raceway Park Fan Appreciation Night is scheduled for Friday, July 5 with general admission for adults, hot dogs, popcorn, and an open pits session for fans to meet the race teams. The track will open the racing season March 15th, featuring 24 events awarding over \$800,000 in total feature money and point fund payouts. Every event at Attica Raceway Park will be streamed on DIRTVision.

Last year this column mentioned Zach Wigal often. He was one of the USAC Midwest D2 Midget drivers. Many of you race fans saw him compete on area tracks like Limaland, Fremont, Waynesfield, Eldora, and Montpelier. He won the 2023 Championship and was caught the eyes of National Midget Race Teams. Zach is moving into a National Midget this season with CB Industries. He will compete full-time as a Rookie of the Year contender in 2024 with the USAC NOS Energy Drink Midget National Championship Series and will drive the CB Industries #89. We wish him well in the big move to the next level. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! ohio.sportsblitz@yahoo.com/

BLACKBIRDS PULL AWAY FROM ARCHERS

Antwerp made the trip to Fulton County Tuesday evening for a non-league girls basketball contest at Pettisville with the host Blackbirds pulling away in the fourth quarter for a 48-40 win over the Archers.

In a low scoring first quarter, the host Blackbirds recorded a 10-3 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action.

Antwerp responded with a 17-point second stanza while holding the Blackbirds to nine as the Lady Archers recorded a 20-19 halftime lead.

In the third quarter, Pettisville answered with a 15-point period with Antwerp bucketing 14 as the two squads went into the final stanza tied at 34-34.

The Lady Blackbirds then bucketed 14 points in the fourth quarter while limiting the Lady Archers to six in recording the 48-40 victory.

Caroline Rohrs led Antwerp with a game-high 15 points while Aewyn McMichael also reached twin digits with 11 points.

Faith Clem chipped in eight for the Lady Archers followed by Emma Townley (four) and Madisyn Peters (two).

Pettisville was paced by Olivia Miller with 13 points and Grace Crawford bucketed a dozen markers for the Lady Blackbirds.

Becca Strauss (nine), Amanda Grimm (seven), Hollyn Klopfenstein (five) and Kelsey Bennett (two) scored the remaining points for Pettisville.

DPLS ANNEX, PERSONNEL COMMITTEES TO MEET

The Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees' ad hoc Annex Committee will hold its first meeting on Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, beginning at 5 p.m. at 311 Fort St., Defiance, OH (white home across from Defiance Public Library).

The board's Personnel Committee will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 8, beginning at 5:00 p.m., also at 311 Fort St., Defiance.

Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public.

VAN WERT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANTS FROM COOPER FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society has received a \$35,000 grant from the Cooper Family Foundation. The Cooper Family Foundation works with organizations to provide funds for projects throughout local communities. Over the years they have provided funding to area fairgrounds, fire departments and EMTs, Boy Scouts, 4-H, FFA and schools to name only a few.

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society applied for the grant to assist with replacing pens in the Cooper Farms Swine Barn.

"Cooper Farms and the Cooper Family Foundation have been an integral part of our building improvements over the years. We are grateful for their dedication to supporting area youth programs and to preserving agriculture in Van Wert County," states Mike Poling, Van Wert County Fair Secretary and Fair Manager.

To learn how you can make an impact, visit <https://www.vanwertcountyfair.com/become-a-sponsor/>

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 2/1/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 1, 2024, in the Hicksville Village Council Chambers. 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 Kevin DeWine, Harry Rubin, and Marcelo Uriel for an update on the Mark Center Solar Project. Mr. Uriel was there representing Naturgy, which is a Spain-based company that will be handling the construction as well as serving as the owner and operator of the solar field over its entire lifetime. He stated that they are planning to begin construction in late 2024 and intend to be fully operational by the end of 2025. They are hoping to source solar panels from a manufacturer in Ohio.

The Commissioners met with Chief Deputy Cliff Vandemark from the Defiance County Sheriffs Office for an update.

WT HOLDS OFF ARCHERS FOR RIVALRY WIN



Brewer & Stoller bounce up for the jump ball that started this heated county rival match up. Photo by Harlee Moore.



Raider Senior Kyle Stoller towers above the defense in this open jump shot, scoring 2 points for the home team! More pictures at westbendnews.net

On a night that saw high school basketball be at its best, host Wayne Trace took sole possession of first place in the Green Meadows Conference with a 53-49 victory over Paulding County and GMC rival Antwerp at the 'Palace.'

The red, white and blue took control of the contest in the first quarter and never trailed as the Raiders opened the game with nine straight points before posting a 15-10 lead at the end of eight minutes of action.

Wayne Trace recorded a 29-26 halftime advantage and the Raiders added to the margin in third quarter, outscoring the Archers 14-9 in the period for a 43-35 lead entering the final stanza.

The blue and white trimmed the deficit to one point at 45-44 and 47-46 but could not get over the hump as the Raiders held on for the four-point victory.

Kyle Stoller topped Wayne Trace with 13 points in the contest and Caden Sinn

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recorded 11 markers for the Raiders, who improve to 13-2 overall and 4-0 in the league. Carter Clemens posted nine points and ten rebounds while Hudson Myers chipped in seven markers and Brooks Laukhuf finished with six.

Tanner Laukhuf and Cale Winans recorded five and two points, respectively, for Wayne Trace. Antwerp's Landon Brewer led all scorers in the contest with 20 points while Carson Altimus finished with 14 and

Reid Lichty posted ten markers. Zaine McMichael (two), Camden Fuller (two) and Ben Savina (one) completed the Archer scoring. Antwerp falls to 3-1 in the league and 13-2 in all games.

sector efforts to prevent suicide, reduce stigma, and address other issues to reduce the rates of suicide in Black youth and young adults. The project will primarily focus on serving at-risk youth between the ages of 10-24 who reside in Cuyahoga, Franklin, Hamilton, Lucas, Montgomery, Muskingum, and Summit counties. To help achieve its goals, OSPF will engage leaders from Black churches, other faith-based organizations, and community centers.

"Suicide in the Black community has been increasing over the past decade and longer," said Tony Coder, Executive Director of the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation. "We are grateful for Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services' commitment to mental health and suicide prevention in underserved populations to curb the tide on this devastating issue."

Other objectives include:
• Conducting a series of professional development and skill-building opportunities for community leaders to build culturally competent and trauma-informed suicide prevention expertise.
• Hosting the 2nd Annual Suicide Prevention in the Black Community Conference.

• Promoting trainings on evidence-informed strategies such as The Living Works Faith program to aid community leaders in offering effective suicide prevention programs.
• Promoting the Be Present Ohio and Life Is Better With You Here awareness campaigns;
• Developing and distributing a resource toolkit to guide organizations in implementing Black youth and young adult suicide prevention strategies in alignment with the 2024-2026 Ohio Suicide Prevention Plan developed in partnership with Governor DeWine's RecoveryOhio initiative.

Five additional organizations will be awarded \$250,000 each to lead regional and locally focused suicide prevention efforts. Those organizations include Legacies Empowered, the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board, NAMI Franklin County, Project Lift Services and the Urban Minority Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Outreach Program of Lucas County.

On average, five Ohioans take their own lives each day and one youth dies every 34 hours. Suicide was the second-leading cause of death among Ohioans 10-34 years of age and the twelfth-leading cause of death in Ohio in 2021, according to the latest statistical report from the Ohio Department of Health. From 2020 to 2021, the number of suicide deaths (1,766) increased 8 percent, and the rate of suicide death (14.8 deaths per 100,000 population) increased 7 percent. Between 2011 and 2021, the rate of suicide deaths among Black Ohioans increased from 6.1 per 100,000 (2011) to 10.2 per 100,000 (2021).

Nationally, Black youth have the fastest growing suicide rate compared to their peers of other racial and ethnic groups. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Web-based Injury Statistics

The West Bend News Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

PAULDING FFA OFFICERS TRAVEL TO HUNTINGTON LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



Shown left to right is the Paulding FFA Officer team at the Huntington Leadership Conference. Tyler Schlatter, Kobe Foor, Tytus Manz, Jamy Hunt, Jalyn Klopfenstein, Grace Goyings, Brooke Kilgore, Brooklyn Schlatter and Addy Hunt

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

Recently, nine Paulding FFA officers and Ag teacher Mrs. Staci Miller traveled to Huntington Indiana for a FFA leadership summit held at Huntington University. At this conference, the officers got to take a tour of Huntington's campus. They also heard from current and alumni stu-

dents, as well as the president of the college. The FFA officers participated in many leadership activities and gathered with other FFA officers and Indiana State officers to enjoy team-building games. They split up into groups and got to talk to people from many new chapters. They had a nice lunch and heard from the keynote speaker Morgan

Anderson. Morgan Anderson is a National Officer from Ohio! The Paulding FFA has gone to this event for the past six years and enjoys it every time. The officers can't wait to come to this event next year. It was a wonderful day to gain more knowledge about FFA and learn vital leadership skills.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Rachel J. West, Antwerp, OH; Domestic violence; Guilty; 90 days jail, 87 days suspended; Defendant to pay all remaining costs; Placed on standard probation; Complete an additional 20 hrs of community service; Complete all unfinished requirements; Report to officer on 1/25/24 at 10:30 a.m.

James R. Sulfridge, Continental, OH; Paraphernalia; Case dismissed, costs waived; OVI/under influence, Case dismissed without prejudice, Costs waived; OVI/refusal, Case dismissed without preju-

dice, Costs waived; Turn signals, Case dismissed without prejudice, Costs waived

Navjeevan Singh, Windsor, ON; Failure to yield for emergency vehicle; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Luis O Barajas Jr., Paulding, OH; Driving under FRA suspension; Guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Scott R. Manson, Paulding, OH; Failure to control; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Paul N. Miller, Paulding, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

John E. Arms, Oakwood, OH; Left of center; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Brandon D. Green, Celina, OH; Driving under suspension/judgement; Count A dismissed

Matthew J. Yockum, Hicksville, OH; No operator license; Guilty; Provide proof of insurance for vehicle by 1/31/24

Nicholas P. Boyd, Oakwood, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

Tyler D. Fenter, Oakwood, OH; Criminal Damage; Case

dismissed per state, with prejudice; Costs paid by defendant

Izayah Cooper Ferguson, Bryan, OH; Driving under FRA suspension, Count A dismissed; Failure to control, Pled no contest, found guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs

Brandon J. Clymer, Archbold, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

OHIOMHAS ANNOUNCES FUNDING TO PREVENT & REDUCE SUICIDE DEATHS AMONG BLACK YOUTH, YOUNG ADULTS

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) announced details of a new statewide effort to help prevent suicide deaths among Black youth and young adults.

"Suicide is devastating for those left behind, including family members, loved ones, friends, and communities," said Governor DeWine. "Over the last several years, national and state data has shown a troubling increase in suicide rates among Black children and young adults. Every single loss is significant and tragic, which is why our hope with this initiative is to strengthen supports for our young people and help them build the resiliency needed to reach their full, God-given potential."

The Black Youth and Young Adults Suicide Prevention Initiative is an innovative approach that seeks to reduce suicide by increasing access to high-quality, culturally responsive prevention and early intervention services that work to reduce risk and strengthen protective factors.

As part of the initiative OhioMHAS has awarded \$500,000 to the Ohio Suicide Prevention Foundation (OSPF) to build local and statewide capacity to strengthen and amplify multi-

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Financial Report 2023 for Carryall Township is complete and available at the office of the fiscal officer. Meetings held the second Monday of each month at 3408 Co. Rd. 192. Meetings January, February, November and December are at 7:00 p.m. and meetings March through October are at 8:00 p.m. Deb Wyckoff Fiscal Officer Carryall Township

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

1 - EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.

2 - CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

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

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

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments. Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

Query and Reporting System (WISQARS), between 2007 and 2020, the suicide rate among Black youth ages 10-17 increased by 144 percent; from 1.54 per 100,000 in 2007 to 3.77 per 100,000 in 2020. "These trends underscore the importance and urgency of Governor DeWine's efforts to prioritize the expansion of behavioral health services throughout Ohio," said OhioMHAS Director LeeAnne Cornyn. "While suicide rates are on the rise among all ages and racial and ethnic groups, the narrowing gap among Black youth warrants attention now. We are proud to support this important initiative and look forward to working alongside our partners to promote wellness and save lives."

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
Case No. 20241006
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF ANITA MARIE GREEN,
DECEASED, LATE OF 505 ORCHARD STREET, PAYNE, OHIO 45880,
An application as been filed asking to relieve the estate from administration, saying that the assets do not exceed the statutory limits. A hearing on the application will be held March 11, 2024 at 10 o'clock a.m.
Persons knowing any reason why the application should not be granted should appear and inform the court. The Court is located, 115 NORTH WILLIAMS STREET, PAULDING, OHIO 45879



PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages
1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds
2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW
3rd Weekend- Payne , (Paved lot east of Homier's)
4th Weekend- Antwerp , (13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)
New Schedule For Smaller Villages
3rd Wednesday of each month
Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)
Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)
Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)
Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630 or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MAJOR AT PURDUE FORT WAYNE STEPS UP TO HELP HOMETOWN PROJECT



Caleb Evers, a mechanical engineering major in the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science at Purdue University Fort Wayne, reviews blueprints he helped generate to support restoration efforts at the Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House in Fort Recovery, Ohio



As Evers describes it, he was halfway volunteered and halfway drafted. If he were married, it would fall under the definition "voluntold."

"She very lightly hinted that I should do this," Evers recalled with a smile.

While in the middle of taking a computer-assisted design class with Rebecca Essig, assistant professor of engineering, Evers understood the theory of deciphering the geometric squares and translating them into a formal blueprint, but had never tried it.

"It probably took me a little longer than it should have because I wasn't super-good at it and I was still figuring it out," Evers said. "I'm glad I was able to put to good use what I was learning for a good cause. I was like, 'I'm not just learning it, I can actually use it.' It was definitely a good realization for me."

Like many freshmen, Evers said he was wondering at the time if he had selected the correct major—and if his abilities were strong enough to support the efforts at the opera house.

"My biggest reluctance was I wasn't super-confident I was the best person for it," he said. "It was the first big project I had ever done. Once I saw on paper what it was they wanted me to do, then I realized I could do it because it was very similar to what my professor was giving me in class."

"When I did this, I was like, 'I can actually do this, and I really enjoy doing this. This is the major for me.' Turns out I was right."

Over the 2022 fall break weekend, Evers needed about nine hours to complete the project. As a Chapman

Scholar, he is also required to engage in community service, so the project fit those goals.

Last spring, painters took his design to produce a remarkable result, so vibrant and colorful that organizers are showing the painting to prove the legitimacy of their vision for the overall project. Instead of simply relying on an artist's projected renderings, they can showcase the actual completed work.

"It was very important because it helped the painters," said Kim Rammel, president of the restoration group. "They took this drawing up there to paint all of this by hand. It took them six weeks,

and without this, it would have been much tougher."

When his mother sent him pictures of the final product, an excited Evers jumped almost high enough to hit his head on his ceiling fan in student housing.

"When I grow up and eventually have a family and this is up and running, I'll be able to show my kids that I was part of it," Evers said. "I figured this would at least be a good learning experience, good practice, but it turned out really well."

In the meantime, organizers said they continue looking for Evers' next "voluntold" project.

THE PAULDING FFA FOOD SCIENCE TEAM IS STATE BOUND



Pictured here is the state food science team members left to right: Grace Goyings, Jamy Hunt, Maci Kauser and Xander Bartley.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Chapter's Food Science Technology team did a great job at the state competition.

The Food Science Technology CDE requires students to have an in-depth understanding of food product development, presentation, and food safety issues. Participants use their sensory skills to solve problems and make sound decisions.

The members also memorized countless conversions to complete the math portion

and answer food industry-based problems. After many hours of early-morning practice and preparation, the team got to travel to Columbus to compete in the state competition on January 13th. Team members are seniors Jamy Hunt and Maci Kauser, junior Grace Goyings, and sophomore Xander Bartley.

At state, they placed 7th as a team out of 25. Jamy Hunt placed 7th as an individual out of 83. Congrats to all of these members and their accomplishments.

PAULDING FFA MEMBERS SPEAK TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Kobe Foor and Jamy Hunt (Paulding FFA) as the guest speakers at the February 1st, 2024, club meeting. Kobe and Jamy came at the invitation of Heather Hunt (Secretary, Western Buckeye ESC). They spoke to the Kiwanians about the Paulding FFA including programs, fundraisers, and community outreach projects. Kobe and Jamy were accompanied by Staci Miller (FFA Advisor) and Jen Bradford (FFA Co-Advisor).

DEFIANCE COUNTY COUNTY COMMISSIONER MEETING MINUTES 1/29/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, January 29, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Session Room. President Kern called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Dana Phipps and County Administrator, Sherry Carnahan, were also present.

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 Kevin

Hancock, Soil & Water Conservation District, for a quarterly update. His office completed 52 site reviews and 55 minor subdivision reviews in 2023. The deadline for signing up for the crop year 2024-2025 H2Ohio program is February 2, 2024. Wendy Baker, Education Coordinator, gave presentations to numerous area schools throughout last year. They continue to work on designs for several projects that may take place later this year. The Board discussed with Mr. Hancock a new parking area that is proposed for the apiary sanctuary. Mr. Hancock stated their office will complete the work later this winter.

The Commissioners met with Tim Meyer, Airport Authority Board for an update. Mr. Meyer stated they will renew the nuisance deer permit. The deer continue to be an issue with being on the runway. They will continue to apply for grant dollars for projects that need to be completed.

OHIO STATE BREAKS GROUND ON MULTI-SPECIES ANIMAL LEARNING CENTER



At a ceremony on Jan. 30, 2024, The Ohio State University broke ground on the \$52 million Multi-species Animal Learning Center (MALC), which will advance student learning and workforce development in animal agriculture.

The College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) will build the state-of-the-art facility at Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory on the Columbus campus.

Ohio State President Walter "Ted" Carter Jr., who spoke at the groundbreaking on his 30th day on the job, said, "Agriculture is critically important, not only for states like Ohio, but for our nation and our world."

"This Multi-species Animal Learning Center is going to benefit our students by providing hands-on training that leads to careers in animal agriculture," Carter said. "It's going to benefit the industry by being a hub for research and workforce development. It's going to benefit our state broadly, as agriculture is Ohio's number one industry. This university exists to serve, and this new facility is going to help us better serve the state of Ohio."

The MALC will facilitate education in essential STEM fields and will foster workforce development for diverse careers such as animal sciences, engineering, food science, human nutrition, and health. Inside the facility, students will have opportunities to gain hands-on experience with swine, equine, poultry, cattle, sheep, and goats. The public will have a chance to learn about modern livestock production with tours; a view-

ing area into the animal barns; and interactive, educational displays.

As an expansion of the original MALC project, a new, modern dairy will also be constructed at Waterman to replace the aging dairy facility. It will feature robotic milking technology and the latest in precision dairy technologies, feed systems, and waste management. The new dairy will meet educational and research needs, with a projected completion date of winter 2025.

CFAES is actively fundraising while moving forward with MALC construction, with opening expected in fall 2025. At present, \$16.4 million has been secured, including a \$10 million investment from Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and the General Assembly allocated in the state budget and a \$4 million commitment from Nationwide received in November.

"We're just so proud of what's happening right now with this new project," said Devin Fuhrman, Nationwide's chief agriculture and sponsor relations officer. "Nationwide is a company founded by farmers. Being able to invest in the future of agriculture is so important to us. We hope we can provide pathways to create opportunities for students of all ages to find their way to a career in agriculture."

The new multi-species center will bolster Ohio State's ability to offer interdisciplinary teaching and research opportunities. Additionally, it will provide space for Ohio State University Extension — CFAES' statewide outreach arm — and youth development programs, such as 4-H and FFA, and their events.

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Fri., Feb. 23
Sat., Feb. 24

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THE COWBOY RIDES AWAY



Last night I heard a new song that is a life-changing. It is a theme I've heard before and it carries a message that has happened before and probably will happen again.

I am trying a new project. Doesn't seem to be working out yet, but it will be some-time before I know the outcome. I have always felt that when we try something new we must go ahead and try.

We never know if it is going to work out but the only way we will know is to try. If it doesn't work out we will have the satisfaction of knowing we tried. If it does work out, it will be much easier the second, or the third time, because of the experience we've gained from the first time.

However after we have invested much time and money it's hard to know when to quit. In the song, "The Boxer," he moves to New York City to try to establish himself as a boxer. He keeps getting beat up repeatedly, but he just can't seem to quit. He tells himself he is leaving, but he just can't bring himself to do it.

"Every glove that cut him till he cried out In his anger and his shame "I am leaving, I am leaving But the boxer still remains"

It is hard to know when to quit and cut our losses but there comes a time when we have to, whether it is in busi-

ness, our personal life, or our many endeavors. In the case of the cowboy riding away, it is a failed relationship. They have tried over and over to mend it and it has failed. There comes a time when it is time for the cowboy to ride away.

"I knew the stakes were high right from the start. When she dealt the cards, I dealt my heart. As the credits roll, a sad song starts to play. And this is where the cowboy rides away."

We all have many things which become a tradition, we do them so many times that they seem to be part of us, but they will all come to an end eventually. You go to Florida every winter but there comes a time when it is the last trip. You vow to your mate, "till death do us part," and this also shall come to pass. It is always difficult to accept, but the end will come.

Let's find something new, give it our best shot, and if it doesn't work we'll have to walk away. They'll probably be some losses, and it might be better to cut our losses while we can, rather than keep on losing.

PS, Permit me my \$.02 worth. I have found West Bend Printing, to be honest in their dealing a very professional. Ran across their website and it is very well done.

—James Neuhousesr

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

FOR SALE: Coffee Grinder. \$300obo. 419-258-0656. tf

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!



1812 OFFICER & NCO TRAINING GARRISON

A winter posting in a frontier fort focuses on military drills and training. Talk with 1812 officer and soldier reenactors to learn about the skills needed to lead troops during the "1812 Officer & NCO Training Garrison" at The Old Fort on Saturday, February 17, 2024.

Hosted by Historic Fort Wayne, Inc., a nonprofit organization, this event offers visitors a glimpse into the lives of officers and soldiers during the cold winter months.

This reenactment event is a gathering of both 1812 officer and soldier reenactors who wish to improve their leadership skills at the company and battalion levels. Visitors will get to observe as the officers and soldiers participate in maneuvers and drill sessions. The reenactors will also share what daily duties and work details are necessary to survive the cold winter

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

months. Sweet Treats and Treasures No event at The Old Fort would be complete without its' Bake Sale. Visitors can indulge in a variety of home-made baked treats. There is also Old Fort-themed merchandise, for those looking to take a piece of history home with them.

Immersive and Interactive The historic ambiance of The Old Fort provides a perfect backdrop for this event. Families and history enthusiasts can explore the buildings of the fort and interact with the reenactors, civilians, and local artisans.

A Community Effort Admission to the event is free, with the option of freewill donations. Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving the rich heritage of Fort Wayne. As a volunteer-driven organization, it relies heavily on community support and donations to continue its mission of education and preservation.

Stay Updated For the latest information and any schedule changes, visit the Historic Fort Wayne Facebook page at facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne.

Cosponsors for the bill include Reps. Robert Aderholt (AL), Alex Mooney (WV), Steve Womack (AR), Tim Burchett (TN), Mary Miller (IL), Barry Moore (AL), and Jerry Carl (AL).

This legislation is endorsed by Americans United for Life, Students for Life, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, and Concerned Women for America LAC.

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REP. BANKS CALLS ON CARMEL TO CUT TIES WITH CCP

Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party member Rep. Jim Banks sent a letter to recently inaugurated Carmel Mayor Sue Finkam asking her to withdraw Carmel from its sister cities agreement with Xi-angyang City, China. Former Mayor Jim Brainard signed the agreement in November 2023 during a ten-day tour of China.

Said Rep. Banks: "Carmel has a great opportunity to turn the page and hopefully lead the way by becoming the first of many Indiana cities to drop its sister city agreement and distance itself from the Chinese Communist Party."

Key Excerpts from Letter: "During his visit to Wuhan, Mayor Brainard signed a so-called 'sister-city' agreement with Xi-angyang in China's Hubei

province. The CCP has entered into sister-city agreements with over 150 cities across the United States in an effort to influence state and local government.

China has successfully leveraged sister-city agreements to force non-American, foreign politicians to endorse its one-China policy...

"I am committed to fighting this influence in Indiana and other states. Indiana state lawmakers are taking on CCP influence in our state as well. Today, the General Assembly advanced Rep. Culp's H.B. 1183, which would prohibit Chinese nationals from owning or leasing agricultural land in Indiana. You have a golden opportunity to play a crucial part in these efforts and undo others' mistakes by disentangling Carmel from the Chinese Communist Party."

At a Select Committee on China hearing today, Rep.

Banks asked former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about the Washington Post's reporting on former Mayor Brainard's trip, as well as the dangers of sister city agreements. Secretary Pompeo responded by saying:

"When the Chinese Communist Party shows up at your school and offers a free swing set, it is not because they care about the health of your children... They may show up and give you some temporary lift, but in the end, it is about them, not us... This is an effort at every level for the Chinese Communist Party to have the capacity to influence our government. The Chinese Communist Party is truly evil."

BANKS INTRODUCES ABORTION FUNDING AWARENESS ACT

Rep. Jim Banks introduced the Abortion Funding Awareness Act, which would require states to annually submit a report to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on all payments of abortions with federal funds and publish the report on the state's website. Currently, eighteen states allow Medicaid to pay for abortions.

The bill text is available here.

Said Rep. Jim Banks: "The majority of Americans are opposed to taxpayer-funded

abortion, but just this week Democrats on the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned a more than 40-year-old law banning the use of Medicaid dollars for abortions. My bill would increase transparency, hold states that abuse taxpayer dollars accountable, and hopefully save unborn lives in the process."

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AVENGRID VOLUNTEERS FOR HABITAT BUILD



Shown in the picture left to right are Austin Purdy, Cory Mowry and John Proxmire.

Habitat for Humanity of Paulding County would like to acknowledge Avengrid for all the volunteer hours they have put in to help finish the house under construction in Paulding.

Habitat for Humanity of Paulding County is seeking a partner family for its 10th home, which will be completed shortly on Water Street in Paulding. Applications will be accepted from January 31st until March 1st. To request a pre-application to see if you qualify, please call or text 419-789-8902 or email pauldingohiohabitat@gmail.com.

Completed pre-applications need to be mailed to: Habitat for Humanity of Paulding County, P.O. Box 328, Paulding 45879.

Habitat for Humanity offers partner families a hand up not a hand out. Partner families are given a zero-percent interest mortgage and must complete 250 "sweat equity" hours for Habitat.

Partner families are responsible for the home's insurance, maintenance, utilities and taxes.

"PLAY IT FORWARD" MOM 2 MOM FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT PAYNE ELEMENTARY PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

The Payne Elementary Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) is thrilled to announce the upcoming Play It Forward Mom 2 Mom event scheduled to take place on

April 6, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Payne Elementary Gym, located at 501 West Townline Street, Payne, OH 45880.

"Play It Forward" is a community initiative aimed at fostering a spirit of support and collaboration among local families while contributing to a worthy cause. The fund-raising event will feature a unique blend of gently-used children's items, clothing, sporting goods, toys, and more, providing an excellent opportunity for people to provide items for their growing families.

The event is open to everyone in the community, offering a space for families to connect and "pay it forward" by passing along cherished children's items to new homes, while helping to raise funds for Payne Elementary playground equipment. The Payne Elementary PTO is excited to host this event as a means of bringing families together for a great cause.

Consignors are invited to participate in "Play It Forward" by registering to participate. For more information contact Jill Strahley at 419-576-7758 or via email at jillstrahley@protonmail.com.

About Payne Elementary PTO:

The Payne Elementary PTO is dedicated to enhancing the educational experience for students while fostering a sense of community among families. Proceeds from "Play It Forward" will directly contribute to the purchase of or maintenance of playground equipment for the school, creating a safer

BUSINESS, INDUSTRY AND COLLEGE EXPO TO BE HELD WEDNESDAY APRIL 3RD



PAULDING, OH - The Paulding County Economic Development office is hosting the Annual Business, Industry & College Expo on Wednesday, April 3rd, from 8:00 am- 12:00 pm. The event is located at the Paulding County OSU Extension Building located at 503 Fairground Dr. Paulding, OH 45879. Public is welcome to attend. High School Students from Antwerp, Paulding, Wayne Trace and Vantage Career Center, will attend to

meet and learn more about the businesses, colleges and non-profits in attendance.

"Last year we had a great turnout of 44 businesses! We were impressed with the engaging hands-on activities some of the businesses had and look forward to more creativity this year. The overall goal for this event is to build awareness for the opportunities in our area. As always, we want to make the event better each year. Since last year we've met with our school leaders

and came up with some tweaks to make the event more impactful for everyone involved," noted Paulding County Economic Development Office Manager, Kristen Schilt.

You can find out more about Paulding County Economic Development events and programs online at www.pced.net; on Facebook at Paulding County Economic Development or email Kristen Schilt, Office Manager at office@pced.net.

and more enjoyable play environment for all students.

As a recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, Payne Elementary PTO's mission is not only to make a positive impact on our school and community but to also offer a platform for individuals and businesses to contribute to meaningful causes with the added benefit of tax-deductible donations. With that in mind, the PTO is also accepting monetary donations for those in-

terested in contributing in that way. Your support is greatly appreciated and donations can be made out to Payne Elementary PTO and mailed to 501 W. Townline St., Payne, OH 45880.

The Payne Elementary PTO looks forward to welcoming families from the community to "Play It Forward" on April 6, 2024. Join us for a day of shopping, connecting, and supporting a great cause!

As sure as it's going to rain, the classifieds sell.



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