

PAULDING COUNTY LAND BANK ACQUIRES ADDITIONAL BUILDING



The Paulding County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) has acquired the former Bargain Bin building. The building is located at 118 West Perry Street between Hawg's Tavern and the Paulding theatre building.

It has been nearly two years since the Land Bank purchased the Paulding Theatre. Since that purchase, there has been review by engineering teams that confirmed the building and framework was structurally unsound, leaving demolition as the only option. The piece that was never confirmed by the engineers, or by any of the bidding demolition teams upon review, was if the adjoining wall with the former Bargain Bin building was able to be separated, leaving it as a sole standing building, or if the

neering teams that confirmed the building and framework was structurally unsound, leaving demolition as the only option. The piece that was never confirmed by the engineers, or by any of the bidding demolition teams upon review, was if the adjoining wall with the former Bargain Bin building was able to be separated, leaving it as a sole standing building, or if the

wall would collapse upon demolition of the theatre framework.

"Without there being a solid confirmation of how the wall between the former Bargain Bin building and the theatre were connected, the Land Bank Committee felt it was best to purchase the building and have full ownership. This way, in the event that the wall

(Continued on Page 3)

DEFIANCE COUNTY NIGHT TO SHINE PARTNERS WITH HICKSVILLE ELEMENTARY



3rd grade winners: McCartney Porter, Charlotte Huntsman, Gwen Kashner

In preparation for Defiance County's Night to Shine event being held on February 9, Hicksville Elementary School held a coloring contest in conjunction with an assembly where students

learned more about the event and how important it is to recognize the special qualities in everyone.

All coloring entries sub-

(Continued on Page 10)



Thank you to our amazing community who surrounded our family with love, prayers, and support during Cameron's fight with leukemia. God has restored Cam to full health with complete healing. We are so thankful to each of you who helped along the way.

—Tim & Joy Manz Family

photo by Nicole Morehead Photography

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OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATES SERIOUS INJURY CRASH

The Van Wert Post is currently investigating a two-vehicle injury crash that occurred at 11:05am today on US 24 near Twp Road 143 in Paulding County.

Unit #1, a silver 2020 Honda Fit, being operated by Jonathon Barnes, 35 years of age, of Liepsic, Ohio, was traveling westbound on US 24 in the left lane approaching the intersection of Twp Road 143. Mr. Barnes had an 8-year-old passenger in his vehicle.

Unit #2, a gray 2007 Peterbilt semi towing a 2021 semi-trailer loaded with swine feed, being operated by Todd A. Maassel, 55 years of age, of Defiance, Ohio, was also westbound on US 24 in the left lane. Mr. Maassel had a 42-year-old passenger in his vehicle, Jeremy Beck, of Archbold, Ohio.

Unit #2 was accelerating after it had entered US 24 from TWP Road 143 and was struck in the rear by Unit #1. Both occupants of Unit #1 sustained serious injuries and were flown by Samaritan Air to Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The oc-

(Continued on Page 2)

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BREWER SETS NEW ARCHER SCORING RECORD



Landon Brewer surpassed Antwerp's Most Career Points record previously held by Jagger Landers. Brewer tipped the scale at last Saturday night's game against Montpelier. Brewer scored an impressive 25 points in the game to make the new record of 1421 points! Photo by Harlee Moore.

Antwerp opened a six-point lead after one quarter and the Archers pulled away from there to record a 65-41 victory over Montpelier Saturday night in non-league boys basketball action.

In the contest, Antwerp senior Landon Brewer broke the school record for career points with a 25-point effort that pushed him to 1,421

points for his career. Brewer eclipsed the record formerly held by graduate Jagger Landers.

The Archers led 19-13 at the end of one quarter before expanding the margin to 31-23 at the intermission. Antwerp then recorded a 46-29 lead entering the final period.

(Continued on Page 7)

ANTWERP MINISTERIAL ASSOC. FOOD PANTRY YEAR IN REVIEW

The staff of the Antwerp Ministerial Association Food Pantry would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the community of Antwerp for your generous support of our local ministry. Because of your generosity, we were able to serve 132 individuals in 2023 from our facility. Inflation and a struggling economy have affected all of us this past year, and the cost of groceries has

been especially difficult for many to manage.

There were times when our food pantry shelves were looking bare, but God faithfully supplied our needs and wants through personal donations, funds from individuals and families, collections from churches, the Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs, school drives, and the receipt of overstock items from local businesses. We appreciate Antwerp for your loving support of this outreach to our friends and neighbors.

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Schrader Ehle Sales & Svc	10
United Edge Auction	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 13

- Friends of Park District board meeting, Fairgrounds, 5:30pm
- DPLS Finance meeting, 12p

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 16-18

- On Golden Pond @ Huber Theatre, 7pm (2:30p, Su)

February 20

- Farmer Appreciation Breakfast @ PHS, 7-9am
- PCCL board meeting, 5:30p

February 21

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

February 22

- Blood Drive @ First Church of Christ, Hicksville, all day
- The Charitable Sisterhood auditions @ Huber, 6-8pm

February 28

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

March 1-3

- Tractor Show, @ Northtowne Mall, Defiance, Mall hours



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



famine was great in all countries around.

Jacob, who lived in the land of Canaan, sent his sons to buy corn in Egypt. Joseph knew his brothers but they did not recognize him.

After many trips back and forth to buy corn, Joseph made himself known to his brothers and spoke kindly to them and said, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good. From now on you and all your loved ones, wives and children, etc. will come to me and live in Goshen, Egypt."

For many years his family died at the age of 110 years, different and pharaoh rose up as King of Egypt. He treated the people very badly, making them make bricks out of straw and mud. Their cries of hard labor rose up to God and he decided to send Moses and Aaron to help them.

Many times Pharaoh was asked to let God's people out of Egypt so that they could worship the Lord, but he refused each time. God sent plagues and one of them was frogs.

Everywhere "in lakes and ponds and in their kitchens and bedrooms" there were frogs. Pharaoh asked Moses to ask the Lord God to rid Egypt of the frogs and Moses asked "when?" Pharaoh answered "Tomorrow."

Can you imagine wanting to spend another night with stinky, slimy, croaking frogs? When we hang onto our sins instead of giving them to Jesus Christ, it is worse than spending a night with filthy frogs.

Do you want God's forgiveness and great salvation? If you do, call on the name of Jesus Christ and turn from your sins.

Amen

Viewing is Monday, Feb. 12th, 9 - 10:15 AM, with her funeral service at 10:30 AM at Christ Lutheran Church, 4412 Park St, Woodburn, IN 46797.

She will be laid to rest in Bowers Cemetery, Fort Wayne. Memorials are to the church. Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com

PAYNE, OH:
Jean Marie Carver Rotzoll, 67, of Payne, Ohio passed away Saturday, February 3, 2024 at Aspire at Brentwood, Lecanto, Florida. ARR BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME, 5761 STATE ROUTE 500, PAYNE, OHIO.

CECIL, OH:
Christine L. Hounshell, 68, of Cecil, Ohio passed away Tuesday, February 6, 2024. ARR BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME, 202 W. RIVER STREET, ANTWERP, OHIO 45813.

OSU LIMA ANNOUNCES AUTUMN SEMESTER 2023 DEAN'S LIST

The Ohio State University at Lima announces its autumn semester 2023 dean's list, which includes students who have achieved top grades for their work.

Criteria for the dean's list varies by college. It is usually based on the GPA for that specific term and the number of credit hours taken. Many colleges require a minimum of 12 graded credit hours with a 3.5 GPA or higher.

The dean's list includes Ohio and out-of-state students. Students are listed by county and city.

Students may choose not to have their names released under the provisions of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. Their names have been excluded from the list.

SOUTHWEST MONTESSORI ACADEMY COLLECTS 370 PAIRS OF SHOES FOR CHANGING FOOTPRINTS



Southwest Montessori Academy collected an amazing 370 pairs of shoes during their recent shoe drive for Changing Footprints. The school serves children ages 3-6 and does a community service project each year that includes student learning around the projects. All of the school's families were encouraged to "clean out their closets" and they responded enthusiastically.

Changing Footprints appreciates the time and hard work Southwest Montessori Academy put into their shoe drive. They accumulated almost twice as many donations as the average drive.

All of these donated shoes will be paired and sorted into over 40 categories at the Changing Footprints warehouse in New Haven. The shoes will be placed into banana boxes and labeled. Social service agencies contact Changing Footprints, requesting specific types of shoes, such as "3 boxes of men's sizes 9-12, athletic".

Changing Footprints often delivers 15-20 boxes at a time to meet the various agencies' requests. No one is ever charged for the shoes. Recipients include the poor and homeless, shelters, churches and school systems. Well over 90% of all donations stay in Northern Indiana.

Well over 90% of all donations stay in Northern Indiana.

Changing Footprints is a

100% volunteer, non-profit organization, without any paid staff. There are 5 main distribution locations in Indiana: Rushville, North Indy, South Indy, Greenfield, and Northern Indiana. Established in 2005, they have distributed over 600,000 pairs in the past 18 years. Locally, the Northern Indiana/Fort Wayne branch collected over 35,000 pairs in 2023. The new and used shoes come from a variety of sources: collection bins at athletic facilities, local libraries, physical therapy offices, shoe stores and churches. Shoe drives by schools, churches, and businesses are essential in the effort to meet the growing demand for gently used shoes.

Changing Footprints accepts all styles, types and sizes of shoes, no matter their condition, or even if they are a single shoe without a mate. Damaged athletic style shoes are ground up into playground surfaces and running tracks by Nike, Zappos and other companies. Donation bins can be found by going to: changingfootprints.org and clicking on the "shoe drops tab". If your organization wishes to run a shoe drive, please contact Rick Boys at in-tj25@hotmail.com.

Donate — don't trash — your unwanted shoes

DEFIANCE COUNTY:

Kiera Bohn

PAULDING COUNTY:

Jacob Lipps

VAN WERT COUNTY:

Carmen Hoersten,

Hopelyn Friedrich, Nathan

Johelyn, Nolan Schwinnen,

Lydia Werts, Carsyn Looser,

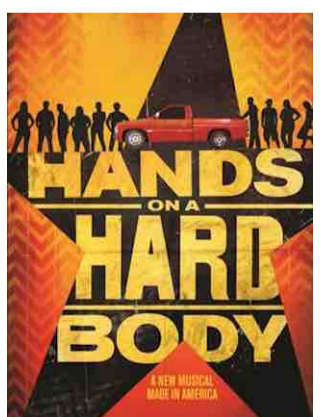
Raegan Boley, Jesse Gunsett,

Alexis Hawkins, Ian Place,

ALLEN COUNTY, IN:

Gavin Fegley

"HANDS ON A HARD BODY" AUDITIONS @VWCT



Van Wert Civic Theatre will be holding auditions for the musical Hands on a Hard Body on Sunday, Feb-

(Continued from Page 1)

cupants in Unit#2 were not injured.

Troopers were assisted at the scene by the Paulding County Sheriff's Office,

February 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the theatre at 113 S. Race St. Van Wert.

Inspired by a true story, this musical depicts a grueling competition in a small Texas town. Ten contestants compete to win a brand-new truck by keeping their hands on it for as long as possible. As the competition unfolds, the show explores the hopes, dreams, and struggles of each contestant, revealing their motivations, vulnerabilities, and unexpected connections. With a blend of country and rock music, the musical delves into the human spirit's endurance and the pursuit of the American Dream.

The play requires 6 women and 9 men. Director Chad Kraner is holding only one night of auditions. Come prepared to read, sing (bring your own music) and dance. If you need to schedule another time or submit a video audition, contact Chad at chad@vwct.org.

For more information call 419-238-9689 or at vwct.org

Paulding Fire and EMS, John's Towing, and Samaritan Air.

The crash remains under investigations and the State Highway Patrol reminds motorists to not drive distracted.

Scripture of the Week

"We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing."

— 2 Thessalonians 1:3

MATT'S MISHAPS



My German friend is showing me an abandoned dog trap. A local welder makes them for around \$100 each.

"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



A Trap of Many Sizes

There seems to be a perpetual tension between man and critters. My dad has a perpetual war with chipmunks. Despite our best efforts to remind him how cute they are, his chewed-up plants and the trafficway through his landscaping beds say otherwise. His chipmunks are live trapped and taken on a one-way trip to a nearby woods.

My dad inherited his dad's love of trapping and war with animal pests. I remember many ankle breaking size holes scattered through my grandpa's pole barn and property. My grandpa used kill traps to go after groundhogs. I remember him carefully pulling back the strong spring and very, very carefully setting it into the hole. He was thrilled when checking the

traps to pull out a lifeless furry 5-10lb critter out of the hole.

When studying wildlife at Purdue, we live trapped all sorts of animals. We had to check traps very frequently as large animals would try to eat the critter caught inside. Other times the critter inside would go berserk and hurt itself if left too long.

Smaller animal trapping in Indiana did not prepare me for the recent traps I ran into overseas. A German friend showed me the largest live trap I had ever seen. I was clueless as to what it was for. He warned me not to go inside, as people can't escape one on their own either once inside. Hunters in our area use packs of dogs. Instead of putting older hunting dogs "to pasture," hunters just release them to the wild to scavenge for themselves. The abandoned dogs often starve to death or form packs and become dangerous to people. My German friend and others trap the dogs in the forests for their wellbeing and people's safety.

I have learned that there is that of every size and thankful that small-town America normally only needs the smaller sizes.

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

ANOTHER NIGHT WITH THE FROGS

By: Doris Applegate
Scribed by: Cynthia

For Joseph (the son of Jacob and Rachel) things started getting better after he (Joseph) interpreted the dream of 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine for Pharaoh (King of Egypt).

Joseph had been treated badly by his brothers who sold him into Egypt where he was also treated badly and put in prison. Pharaoh made Joseph governor of Egypt over all the distribution of corn because the

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ANTWERP PHARMACY



CUPID'S DAY

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker
A day to celebrate and shower the ones we love with our affection ... and of course is to eat candy!

Candy has become one of the most popular Valentine's Day gifts. Each year, thousands of people give candies to their sweethearts.

But where did it begin for some of the world's favorite sugary treats? Here's the history of Valentine's Day candy:

Sweethearts Candy Hearts: I recall having a Valentine's day party in about third grade. I felt so proud because I gave a boy a candy heart that said "Kiss me."

In 1866, Daniel Chase developed a machine that could press food dye letters onto candy along with his brother, New England Confectionery Company (NECCO) founder,



Oliver Chase.

The printed candy gained popularity and soon became a favorite treat at weddings. In 1902, the candy hearts evolved into the ones we know today and continue to be made every year from late January until mid February.

During that time, around eight billion, 100,000 pounds, of candy hearts are made, and the entire amount is sold out within six weeks. To this day, Sweethearts are one of the best-selling Valentine's Day candy.

Hershey's Kisses: These were first introduced in 1907, it is not known exactly how the kisses got their name. But one theory suggests they were named for the kissing sound the chocolate candies made

while being deposited on the manufacturing line.

It wasn't until 1962 that Hershey Kisses were first wrapped in red and green foil to celebrate Christmas. Today, to celebrate Valentine's Day, kisses are wrapped in



red foil plus there are also pink wrapped ones.

Heart-Shaped Boxes of Chocolates: by Richard Cadbury, son of Cadbury founder John Cadbury, created 'fancy' boxes of chocolates to increase sales. He used drawings of his family and Alpine scenes to decorate them. In 1861, he created the first heart-shaped box of chocolates for Valentine's Day. The popularity of the boxes has only grown over the years. Each year, over 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold around the world.

Those heart-shaped chocolates are a favorite of mine, but I recall my husband getting them for me and hiding them. I felt better when I found it. Then I remember being told that candy was 1/2 price after Valentine's Day (I think that's true!).

After researching, I found out the ways various countries celebrate Valentine's Day.

The United States – We go all out with candy, flowers, jewelry and dinners...

South Korea and Japan – Pamper the men. Good idea?

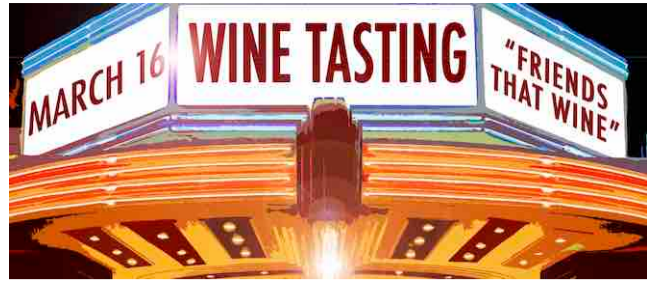
England – goes on Dream dates.

Finland – Celebrate with friends.

Peru – Give them orchids
In Brazil, they celebrate in June.

Whether you decide to go out or stay in this Valentine's Day, don't forget to enjoy a sweet treat! What's your favorite Valentine's Day candy? What's your favorite way to be pampered? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

ANNUAL WINE & CHEESE TASTING AT JPHS



Get ready for a wine-derful time at the annual John Paulding Historical Society Wine Tasting on Saturday, March 16.

Doors will open for the movie-themed event at 6:00 p.m. The fun gets under way at 7:00 p.m. with a selection of tasty wines and cheeses, plus door prizes, silent and live auctions, 50/50 drawing, and more.

Lois Beamer is leading the committee as she did for the memorable events in 2022 and 2023.

The wine and cheese tasting is a major fundraiser for the historical society as well as an entertaining evening for everyone.

Ages 21 and older may at-

(Continued from Page 1)

couldn't be separated, there would not be additional expense," stated Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copey. "The demolition team (Advanced Demolition of McComb, Ohio won this bid in 2023) confirmed a separation wall between the former Bargain Bin and Hawg's Tavern building. They will start demolition at the north end of the old bargain bin and work toward and through the theatre, to the former Western Auto building and end demolition at the alley" Copey shared.

The purchase of the bargain bin building has been the delay in getting the theatre and former Western Auto building demolition started. Once the wall dilemma was recognized last summer the discussion began immediately with building owner Trent Stoller. "Trent was on board from the start of the discussion but we first needed to find a place to live for those that were renting space upstairs," Copey shared. "Trent was able to acquire the former Western Buckeye ESC building but it then had to have interior work completed to transform it from an office space and make it residential space again. Once that work completed in January we were then able to purchase the Perry Street building and move this project forward again."

The Land Bank EPA consultant Tetra Tech has subcontracted with Erie Environmental of Port Clinton, Ohio, to come in and remediate any hazardous materials on the site of the three buildings. This may include: asbestos shingles, pipe wrap or floor tiles. They have been doing the work on site this week. Once this remediation work is complete, Advance Demolition will be on site the week of February 19 to begin the demolition work. This will include removal of some key pieces in the theatre for the Paulding County Historical Society, backfill on the site to make it level with the neighboring properties, and any

tend. Information available at Kauser Trucking in Paulding, from Lois Beamer at 419-769-0661, or John Paulding Historical Society at 419-399-3667. The museum will be open on Tuesdays starting February 20.

The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive, across from the fairgrounds in Paulding.

Updates will be posted on the museum's Facebook page at facebook.com/jphsmuseum and through local news media.

The event committee is accepting prize donations for the auctions. For more information, email jphs45879@yahoo.com or text to 419-769-3993.

work required on the newly exposed east facing wall of Hawg's Tavern.

The future use of the site is yet to be determined. The property has been marketed during a few different inquiries but to this point no one has signed a purchase agreement. It will be a better discussion going forward as potential investors will be able to see the size of the open lot once it is a clean site. The addition of space from removing a third building will allow for a much larger opportunity for development.

"We realize demolition isn't a crowd-pleasing decision for everyone. There is a part of our history here in these buildings, both in building the structures and in the years of use after. But once these buildings reach a point of no return we have to move forward and look for new opportunities that will better serve our children, grandchildren and future generations. The PCED office will work hard to market this property and see what can be the next "historic" opportunity here that we can all be proud of. We cannot express enough gratitude to the Noneman's, Graham's, and Stoller's for their help with this. We hope to make them and Paulding County proud of this project," Copey closed.

Paulding County Treasurer and Land Bank Committee member Lou Ann Wannemacher noted, "The Land Bank is excited to follow this project up after the recent success with the Grover Hill Dollar General lot. We continue to look for opportunities that move the county bottom line forward."

This project has been an incredible collaboration piece for the county. The Paulding County Land Bank Corporation, The Village of Paulding, Maumee Valley Planning Organization, Paulding County Economic Development, building owners Bill & Ruth Graham, Bob & Gretchen Noneman and Trent & Jodi Stoller, and the Historical Society have all been involved. Everyone worked closely to make sure that this process served the best interests of the Paulding County community.

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

Alfred B. Lighthill was born in Oakwood, Ohio November 30, 1891. The son of Franklin Henry born January 11, 1863 in Paulding County. And Anna Mary (Bobenmyer) Lighthill born July 18, 1865 in Brown Township. This couple was married November 23, 1884 in Putnam County. A son, David Ellsworth was born in 1885, followed by Ethel Grace 1888, and Clinton Henry was born December 25, 1889. Franklin was a farmer in Brown Township.

By 1900, while farming in Brown Township, Franklin and Anna added children Alfred in 1891. By 1910, Franklin and Anna, added children Viola Edith and twin brother Edward Vance in 1901. Ed passed away in 1902. He was buried in Prairie Grove Cemetery. Archie Franklin in 1903 and Venus Opal in 1907. Franklin was still farming in Brown Township.

By 1911, Alfred was serving in the National Guard. He was Honorably Discharged October 24, 1914. By 1915, Alfred was living in Lima, Ohio at 1162 Atlantis Avenue. He was working as a laborer at the Solar Refinery. He apparently had joined the National Guard out of Lima.

On June 5, 1917, while living at 825 Holly Street in Lima, Alfred registered for the draft. He was listed as short and medium build, brown eyes, black hair and single. On June 5, 1917, Alfred's brother Clinton registered in Continental, Putnam County. He was medium height and build, blue eyes, dark hair, married

with two children. He was working as a teamster, self-employed. He served from August 27, 1918 to December 17, 1918, where he was serving with the 159th Depot Brigade. Alfred was inducted into service July 24, 1918. He served as a wagoner to October 11, 1918. Promoted to Corporal, December 11, 1918. Served with Truck Company 8th Company Artillery Park until discharged. He was Honorably Discharged, January 2, 1919.

By 1920, Alfred and his bride, Lydia Ann (Balmer) Lighthill, were living in Jackson, Michigan, on Monroe Street. Lydie was born 1896 in Ohio, the daughter of John and Emma Balmer. Alfred was working as a laborer for a furniture company. On December 4, 1925, a son, Dale Leonard was born, followed by a daughter, Donna Lee, November 21, 1928. She was born in Nebraska.

By 1930, the Lighthill family had moved to Monroe, Putnam County, Ohio. Alfred tried his hand at farming. By 1935, the Lighthill family moved back to Nebraska. In 1936, a son, Wayne Darrel Lighthill was born. By 1937, the Lighthill family moved to Salem, Marion County, Oregon. Alfred was working as a laborer for the Schindler Dairy.

By 1940, with the family still living in Oregon, Lydia took a job working at a cannery. Alfred was still working for the dairy. On September 6, 1940, while filling silos, his team of horses bolted. Alfred was ran over by the team. He was taken to the Deaconess Hospital where he lingered for five hours. He suffered a crushed chest, multiple broken ribs, punctured lung, fractured skull, fractured leg, and lacerations to the head and arm. On September 12, 1940, Alfred's body was brought back to Oakwood. Services were held at the Oakwood United Brethren Church with the Rev. Willis Howell officiating. Burial at the Prairie Chapel Cemetery. Alfred received his military stone November 1, 1940. His wife Lydia remarried by 1950, living in Kansas. Not sure when she passed away or buried.

Good News doesn't just happen. It's made!
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Written by Ernest Thompson

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PAYNE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Payne Elementary awarded their January students of the month for displaying the character word "Generous". These students show generosity in the classroom and in other situations. Eight of these students were also awarded movie passes to Van Wert Cinemas. Thank you students for doing the right thing. Pictured above are (front row) Bryn Wasserman, River Stoller, Elaine Temple, Leo Schmidt, Aubree Thompson, Kaylynn Schwartz, Ava Miller, and Monroe Taylor; (back row) Carson Blair,

Aubree Phlipot, Peyton Hollar, Braelyn Gonzales, Emma Wilcox, Ethan Valdez, Cameron Miller, Nuria Valdez, Aubree Lamb, Dylaine Carr. Not pictured: Hailee Burkard, Raven Swary, and Zander Lelonek

PJHS 100% ACCOUNTABLE MINDSET MOTIVATORS



Paulding Junior High School uses a social-emotional curriculum called The 7-Mindsets to help students explore positive character traits. After each mindset unit is completed teachers at PJHS select Mindset Motivators who have actively participated in the lessons. Shown in the picture above are the PJHS Mindset Motivators for the unit 100% Accountable.

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Josh Elster, assigned to Pickaway County, was alerted of a vehicle parked on a busy road near Deer Creek Wildlife Area. Officer Elster found an individual inside the vehicle using a small candle to stay warm after running out of gas. Officer Elster pushed the vehicle off the road for safety and retrieved gas for the motorist. He then helped the motorist safely park the vehicle so it could warm up and defrost.

During the 2023 white-tailed deer gun hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Brian Motsinger, assigned to Union County, responded to a house that had been hit by a stray bullet. Officer Motsinger investigated and found that the bullet had passed through a deer, traveled approximately 700 yards, and struck a house. The bullet extracted from the house

appeared to match the bullet that the hunter was using. The hunter accepted responsibility for the shot, was issued a citation, and paid for the damage. The hunter received a fine and a one-year hunting license revocation. An important key to hunting safely is being confident in your target and what is beyond it.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Investigator Kevin Good, assigned to Lake Erie, learned of an unlicensed fishing guide on Lake Erie who was advertising his services on social media. The suspect brought a boat from seven hours away for the purpose of fishing the fall wall-eye tournaments. Investigator Good contacted several witnesses and the guide. The guide was found to have offered and led trips for hire. He was issued a summons for Huron Municipal Court and ordered to pay \$250 in fines, pay \$100 in court costs, and complete six months of probation.

State Wildlife Officer

Craig Barr, assigned to Allen County, participated in ODNr's Job Shadow Day by mentoring two high school students. During the day, Officer Barr and the students withdrew samples from several roadkill white-tailed deer to check for Chronic Wasting Disease. Officer Barr also contacted a local trapper and gave the student the opportunity to ask questions of fish, wildlife, administrative, law enforcement, and education staff in northwest Ohio.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

During the white-tailed deer muzzleloader hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Aaron Brown, assigned to Wayne County, received information that an individual was hunting on private property without permission. Officer Brown contacted the suspect and found that he did not possess a valid hunting license or deer permit. Officer Brown issued summonses for hunting without a license and hunting without a deer permit. The individual paid fines and court costs totaling \$229.50.

While patrolling during the deer muzzleloader hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Michael Budd, assigned to Tuscarawas County, contacted an individual who was using a rifle that was not legal for hunting, did not possess a hunting license or deer permit, and was not wearing the appropriate hunter orange clothing. Officer Budd issued summonses for the violations.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

In late November 2023, State Wildlife Officer Scot Gardner, assigned to Washington County, received information that two white-tailed deer bucks with their antlers locked together were stuck in a shallow creek. By the time Officer Gardner arrived, one of the bucks had expired. The other buck became agitated when Officer

Gardner approached to untangle the antlers. After several attempts, Officer Gardner successfully untangled the bucks. Officer Gardner watched as the live buck stood up and walked over a ridge, seemingly unharmed.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Jasmine Grossnickle, assigned to Miami County, helped teach an Introduction to Wildlife Rehabilitation class at Miami Valley Career Technology Center. Officer Grossnickle spoke about her career path to becoming a wildlife officer and discussed some of the rules and regulations she enforces when dealing with injured, orphaned, or nuisance wildlife.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION CHALLENGES OHIO TO FOCUS ON BRAIN HEALTH IN 2024

Currently, two-thirds of Americans have at least one major risk factor for dementia. Science shows that modifying risk factors and promoting healthy behaviors can reduce the risk of cognitive decline and dementia - in fact, scientists estimate that up to 40% of dementia cases worldwide could be prevented by a change in habits.

The Alzheimer's Association is offering "10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain," simple everyday actions people can take to reduce their dementia risk.

1. Challenge Your Mind - Be curious. Put the brain to work and do something new. Challenging the mind may have short- and long-term brain benefits.
2. Stay in School - Education reduces the risk of cognitive decline and dementia. Encourage youth to stay in school and pursue the highest level of training possible. Continue your own education by taking a class at a library, school or online.
3. Get Moving - Engage in regular exercise and activities that raise your heart rate and increase blood flow to the brain and body.
4. Protect Your Head - Help prevent a head injury. Wear a helmet, a seatbelt and be careful of falls.
5. Be Smoke-Free - Quitting smoking can lower the risk of cognitive decline back to levels similar to those who have not smoked. It's never too late to stop.
6. Control Your Blood Pressure Medication, eating right and engaging in physical activity can lower blood pressure.
7. Manage Diabetes Type 2 Diabetes can be prevented or controlled by healthy eating, increased physical activity and medication.
8. Eat Right - Healthy eating can help reduce the risk of cognitive decline. Focus on vegetables and lean proteins, avoiding processed and high-fat foods.
9. Maintain a Healthy Weight - Talk to your doctor about your ideal body weight. Following these healthy habits and getting adequate sleep can help you maintain a healthy weight.
10. Sleep Well - Good quality sleep is important for brain health. Turn off all screens before bed to minimize disruptions. Address any sleep-related problems like sleep apnea.

"Research confirms what we have suspected for some

PJHS POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Jack Daeger (Grade 8), Maddalayna Mullins (Grade 6), and Ivan Martinez (Grade 7).

PJHS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Aly White (Grade 8), Shohawna Shepherd (Grade 7), and Ella Zimmerman (Grade 6).

time - people can lower their chances of cognitive decline with healthy habits," said Pam Myers, program director for the Alzheimer's Association Northwest Ohio and Central Ohio Chapters. "Adopting as many of these 10 everyday actions as possible can decrease dementia risk. This is true even for people who have a history of dementia in their families. It's never too late or too early to take charge of your brain health."

To learn more, visit alz.org/healthyhabits. There are 220,000 Ohioans older than 65 living with Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures. That number is expected to hit 250,000 by 2025. A total of 493,000 Ohio caregivers provide 736 million hours of unpaid care each year.

To learn more about Alzheimer's or other dementia and to access free support and resources, visit alz.org/nw-ohio or call the Northwest Ohio Chapter at 419.537.1999 or the 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900

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The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

- 1 - EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE - Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.
- 2 - CLAIMS ASSISTANCE - Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

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

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments
Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

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

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Tuesday, January 23rd was a foggy, icy morning. My mother-in-law, while feeding her cats, slipped on the ice and fell down the steps of her side porch. We are not sure how long she laid there, suffering incredible pain and praying to God for someone to find her. We live about a quarter-mile east of her and even though she was crying out for help, the fog muffled out any

hopes of her being heard. I can only imagine how this frightened 88-year-old woman felt. Alone, in pain, praying for someone to come, which could be unlikely as the weather prevented most folks from getting out.

But, there was one person out, our rural letter carrier, Deb Mericle. If she had been delayed, or detoured on her route, she would not have seen Donna laying at the foot of the steps. But she did and she stopped, and she called the squad. Donna had been so cold and I wonder how long it would have taken her to succumb to hypothermia if she hadn't been found. Because Deb knows everyone on her route, as most letter carriers do, she called Anne, my sister-in-law. Anne's husband, Jeff, Donna's younger son, and Fred, her oldest rushed to Donna's side as they heard the sirens of the ambulance and first responders. Donna was taken to our county hospital where they found she had broken her femur. Her middle son, Tim met them at the hospital, so she had all her sons together. The emergency room team heaped warm blankets on her shivering body and made her as comfortable as possible. She would be transported as soon as possible to Parkview for what would be a complicated surgery.

Donna has made it through surgery at Parkview and is back in Paulding County for rehab. It seems all a blur now, but I know we will always be so grateful to her guardian angel, and our hero, Deb Mericle. We appreciate you Deb for your

alertness and quick action coming to Donna's aid, and most likely, saving her life.

—Susan Pieper
Paulding Township

DPLS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET

The Finance Committee of the Defiance Public Library System's Board of Trustees will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, **February 13**, beginning at noon at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., Defiance, OH, to review the January finances.

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

GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration is now open for Grover Hill Kindergarten registration and transitional registration. Children that are 5 before or on September 30th may register for kindergarten.

Kindergarten screening will be held on April 9th and 10th.

- What you need to do:
- Vaccinations should be scheduled (due at registration)
 - Call Mrs. Candi Brimmer 419-587-3414 - option 3, to receive your registration packet
 - Must call by February 29th.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY CRASH

On February 2, 2024, at approximately 5:15 P.M., Troopers from the Bowling Green Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol responded to a serious injury crash that occurred on State Route 795 west of Oregon Road in Perrysburg Township, Wood County.

Frank Gardull, 68 years of age, of Walbridge, Ohio, was driving a 2017 Ford Escape westbound on State Route 795 when his vehicle ran off the right side of the roadway, where it struck a ditch and two trees. Mr. Gardull was transported from the scene by EMS personnel with life-threatening injuries.

Mr. Gardull was wearing his seat belt at the time of the crash and impairment is not believed to be a factor.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted by the Perrysburg Police Department, Lake Township EMS and Pat and Son Towing.

This crash remains under investigation.

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WHY SEE A FINANCIAL ADVISOR?

Investing for your future is important — but it can be challenging. How can you navigate the complexities of the financial markets and make the right decisions for your situation? Fortunately, you don't have to go it alone. A financial advisor can help you in these key areas:

- Developing a personal financial strategy – Many factors go into creating a long-term financial strategy. What is your risk tolerance? When would you like to retire? What sort of retirement lifestyle have you envisioned? What are your other important goals? A financial advisor will ask these and other questions in getting to know you, your family situation and your hopes for the future. By taking this type of holistic approach, a financial advisor can help you create financial and investment strategies appropriate for your needs.
- Avoiding mistakes – A financial advisor can help you avoid costly investment mistakes. One such mistake is attempting to "time" the market. Investors pursue market timing when they try to "buy low" and "sell high." In theory, of course, this is a great idea — if you could consistently buy investments — stocks, in particular — when their price is down and then sell them when the price has risen significantly, you'd al-

ways make some tidy profits. The main drawback to this technique, though, is that it's virtually impossible to follow, especially for individual investors. Nobody, not even professional money managers, can really predict with any accuracy when stock prices have reached high or low points. Consequently, those who try to make these guesses could miss out on opportunities. For example, investors who are determined to buy low might not want to purchase investments when the market is up — but this practice could lead to taking a "time out" from investing just when the market is in the midst of a rally. But a financial advisor can steer clients toward a more disciplined approach, such as buying quality investments and holding them for the long term, regardless of the ups and downs of the market.

Checking progress toward your goals – If you were to invest without any guidance, you might not be looking at your investments' performance with the proper perspective. For example, some investors simply compare their portfolio returns against a widely used market index, such as the S&P 500. But this comparison may not be that useful. The S&P 500 only measures the stock prices of the leading publicly traded U.S. companies by market capitalization — but your investment portfolio, if properly diversified, will in-

clude investments other than U.S. stocks, such as bonds, government securities, international stocks and more. Consequently, the performance of your portfolio won't track that of the S&P 500 or any other single index, either. Your financial advisor can help you employ more meaningful benchmarks, such as whether your portfolio's progress is on track toward helping you meet your financial goals. Also, a financial advisor will review your portfolio and investment strategy regularly to determine what changes, if any, need to be made, either in response to the markets or to events in your life.

Investing for your future can be exciting and rewarding — and you can feel more confident in your decisions when you have someone helping you along the way.

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

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Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library
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Payne: Village office, Panchos, Vancrest of Payne, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Puckerbrush Pizza, Maramart, Library
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WARRIORS FALL TO SOUTH SIDE



Warrior Drew Fleek goes up for a jumpshot at Saturday, February 3rd's game against South Side Archers. Woodlan battled in this match up, but the Archers dominated the court, outscoring Woodlan, 57-81. Photo by Lions Eye Photography

WOODLAN OPENS TOURNAMENT TRAIL WITH WIN

Sectional girls basketball got underway recently in Indiana with the Woodlan Warriors opening action up at Garrett High School against Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger Wednesday evening.

The Lady Warriors advanced to sectional semifinal action with a 54-41 win over the Saints using a balanced scoring attack that saw four players reach double digits.

Brooke Kneubuhler led the way for Woodlan with 15 points while Alyssa Anderson chipped in 14 points and Reagan Widenhoefer finished with 11 markers. Taylor Kneubuhler totaled ten points as well for the Lady Warriors.

Alix Jacquay and Chloe Gaff posted two points apiece for Woodlan as well.

Anderson and Taylor Kneubuhler both grabbed nine boards to pace the Lady Warriors while Anderson

also dished out four assists.

Brooke Kneubuhler and Taylor Kneubuhler both added three assists for Woodlan with Brooke Kneubuhler totaling four steals. Widenhoefer also recorded three steals for the Lady Warriors and Gaff picked up two.

WOODLAN ADVANCES TO SECTIONAL TITLE GAME

The Woodlan Lady Warriors advanced to the sectional championship game after defeating host Garrett 49-36 in sectional semifinal action Friday evening.

Woodlan had seven different players score in the contest, getting a team high 14 points from Chloe Gaff while Taylor Kneubuhler chipped in 11 markers.

Others finding the scoring column for the Lady Warriors were Alyssa Anderson (eight), Mariah Thullner (five), Brooke Kneubuhler (five), Reagan Widenhoefer (three) and Makenna Smith (three).

Anderson recorded a team high ten rebounds for Woodlan with Taylor Kneubuhler chipping in eight boards. Brooke Kneubuhler and Gaff each picked up four rebounds for the Lady Warriors as well.

Gaff and Brooke Kneubuhler recorded four and three assists, respectively, for Woodlan while Brooke Kneubuhler picked up two steals.

LADY RAMS CRUISE TO WIN OVER ACES

Visiting Tinora outscored host Hicksville in all four quarters as the Lady Rams coasted to a 58-24 win over the Aces Thursday in Green Meadows Conference girls basketball action.

Tinora improved to 10-7 overall and 3-2 in the league with the victory after opening a 10-5 lead at the end of one quarter and a 28-10 half-time advantage. The green and white extended the margin to 48-19 entering the final stanza.

Eowyn Blanchard topped a nine-person scoring attack for the Lady Rams with 13 points while Karli Okuley bucketed a dozen markers and Nova Okuley chipped in 11 points.

Other scorers for Tinora included Addison Lee (seven), Amelia Coy (five), Christina Meyers (five), Emma Bailey (two), Julia Durfey (two) and Tatum Creps (one).

Kennedy Adams paced Hicksville with 15 points on the night and McKenna Rice posted three. Hayden Neidhardt, Addison Sanders and McKenna Biard finished with a basket each for the Aces, who fall to 2-16 overall and remain winless in five league contests.

ARCHERS KEEP GMC TITLE HOPES ALIVE

It went down to the wire but the Antwerp Archers kept their Green Meadows Conference title hopes alive with a 46-43 win over Ayersville Friday night.

The Archers appeared to take control of the contest in the opening stanza, outscoring the Pilots 17-9 for an eight-point advantage.

Antwerp then added to the margin in the second stanza, picking up seven points compared to Ayersville's four as the Archers recorded a 24-13 halftime lead.

The Pilots, though, cut into the deficit by putting up

BULLDOGS WIN REGIONAL WRESTLING TITLE



New Haven wrestlers took the Regional title on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Photo by Melissa Amstutz

Indiana High School Athletic Association regional wrestling took place at Carroll High School in northern Fort Wayne over the weekend with the New Haven Bulldogs winning the regional title with 136 points for the tournament.

The Bulldogs just slipped past second place Garrett, which finished with 130-1/2 points while Snider placed third at 124 points.

Amongst other East Allen County Schools' squads, Leo took fourth with 96 points while Woodlan was 12th at 18 points and Heritage finished tied for 13th with eight

points.

Julianna Ocampo was a winner for the Bulldogs at 106 and Karrington Cooper took first in the 113-pound weight class. Easton Doster also claimed a first place finish at 144 with Aidan Elkins winning the tournament at 150.

Freshman Sean Harris captured the title at 120 for the Lions and Isaiah Coolman won the 285-pound weight class.

Leo's Jiler Gould finished third at 106 and teammate Brayden Juday took third at 113. Nolan Butcher picked up a third-place finish at 126 and Daniel Espinosa claimed

fourth place at 150. Max Wiler took fourth at 157 for Leo while Eli Coolman was the runner-up at 190.

New Haven's Timmy Rocha placed third at 120 and the Bulldogs' Brayden Clauser placed fourth at 132. Ian Amstutz was third at 157 as well for New Haven and Vince Lepera finished fourth at 175. Matt Poiry wrapped up the region with a second-place finish at 215.

Andrew Mirelez of Heritage picked up a third-place finish at 138 for the Patriots with Woodlan's Jack Culler recording a second-place finish at 175 for the Warriors.

15 points in the third quarter with Antwerp scoring 11 as the Defiance County squad pulled within 35-28 at the end of three periods.

In the final stanza, Ayersville had an opportunity to tie the contest in the final seconds but a last second shot was off the mark as Antwerp held on to record the three-point victory.

Landon Brewer led the way for the blue and white with 17 points and Zaine McMichael chipped in ten markers for the Archers.

Camden Fuller (nine), Carson Altimus (eight) and Ben Savina (two) also scored for Antwerp as the Archers moved to 4-1 in the league and 15-2 overall.

Garrett Flory paced Ayersville with 14 points and Jeremiah Peake also reached double figures with ten markers.

Other scorers for the Pilots included Carter Michel (eight), Brady Clark (seven) and Ben Amoroso (four). Ayersville drops to 6-9 in all games and 1-3 in the conference.



Junior Derek Hines takes the ball down the court in the match up with Montpelier. Photo by Lions Eye Photography

(Continued from Page 1)

Joining Brewer in twin digits were Zaine McMichael with 15 points while Carson Altimus bucketed a dozen markers.

Ben Savina added five points for the blue and white with Tavin Sholl posting three and Derek Hines recording two. Antwerp improves to 16-2 overall on the season with the victory.

Montpelier was led by Kenneth Smeltzer with 11 points on the night and Grant Girrell chipped in ten markers.

Brayden Brink (six), James Camper (six), Hayden Sharps (four), Chavez Martin (two) and Wesley Hartsock (two) for the Locomotives, who fall to 8-8 overall.



Landon Brewer taking his record breaking shot. Photo by Harlee Moore

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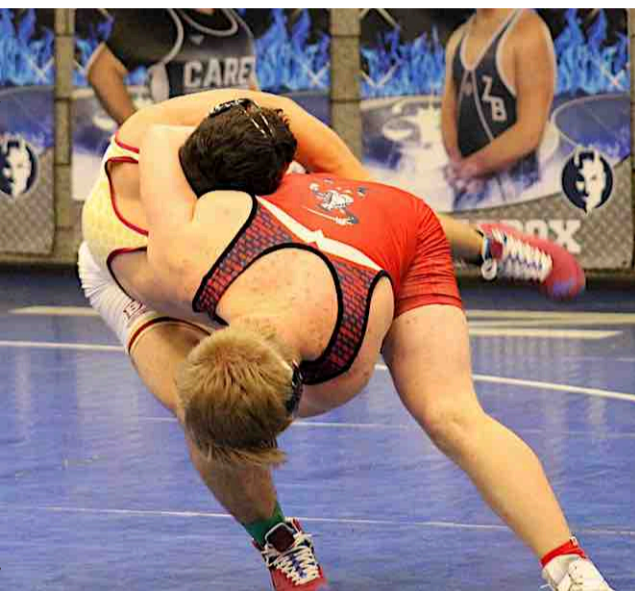
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WAYNE TRACE PLACES 4th AT CAREY CLASSIC



Nate Osborn & Corbin Kimmel placed 1st on the day at the Carey Classic on February 3rd. Photo by Carrie Kimmel.



Nate Osborn prepares to take down his opponent in his 1st place match at the Carey Classic. Photo by Carrie Kimmel.



Corbin Kimmel attempts to get the upper hand in his 1st place match at the Carey Classic. Photo by Carrie Kimmel.

The varsity wrestling team took a step forward trying to advance in the season. Out of nineteen teams, Wayne Trace placed fourth overall. The team represented five out of eight wrestlers in finals matches for their individual weight classes. At the end of the day, Corbin Kimmel and Nate Osborn finished as champions. Colton Kimmel, Kamryn Sutton, and Graiden Troth finished as the runner-up in their weight classes.

Corbin Kimmel, the 120-pound junior wrestled strong throughout the day. In Round 1, Corbin pinned his opponent, Dennis Abell of Findlay in 1:40. In Round 2, Kimmel defeated Ethan Stefan by pin in 2:26. After a Round 3 bye, Kimmel went forward to quickly pin Abbi Taylor in just 17 seconds. The junior then pinned Kelan Derck of Arcadia in 1:13. In the championship match, Kimmel faced Richard Storts of Licking Heights. In a close match, Kimmel defeated Storts in overtime with a score of 6-4. Kimmel placed eighth out of 100 wrestlers for the most pins/tech falls in the least amount of time with four wins in just 5:36 throughout the day and earned 33 team points.

Nate Osborn, the 190-pound senior also competed aggressively throughout the day. Osborn defeated Alex Balderson of Arcadia in Round 1 in just 32 seconds. In Round 2, Nate pinned Maddox Perry of Cary in 56 seconds. After a Round 3 bye, the senior won by pin over Kaleb Ribbing from Licking Heights in 3:22. For Round 5, Osborn won by major decision over Carson Sauber of Tiffin Co-

lumbia with a score of 18-8. In the championship match, Nate pinned Brayden Rosebrough of Licking Heights in 5:15. Nate placed 3rd out of 100 wrestlers for the most single match points and scored 34 team points.

The 113-pound freshman, Colton Kimmel won Round 1 of the day by pin over Timothy Abell of Findlay in 47 seconds. In Round 2, Kimmel defeated Izzy Shepherd of Riverdale in 9 seconds. In Round 3, Colton pinned Brody Thiel of Carey in 1:43. Advancing in the championship bracket, Colton won by decision over Parker Snider of Findlay with a final score of 9-4. In the championship match, Kimmel was defeated by Ryan Cote of Licking Heights with a score of 18-0. Colton placed 3rd out of 100 wrestlers for the quickest pin of the day and scored 23 points for Wayne Trace throughout the day.

Kamryn Sutton, the 132-pound junior scored 32 team points for the day. In Round 1, Sutton won by pin over Trenton Coppler of Riverdale in 26 seconds. In Round 2, Kamryn pinned Levi Crawford of Arcadia in 56 seconds. Following a bye in Round 3, Sutton defeated Zachary Martinez of Morenci by pin in 2:28. In the finals match, Sutton was defeated by Ashton Clifton of Vermillion by pin.

In the 144-pound weight class, Graiden Troth placed 3rd out of 70 wrestlers for the most total match points and scored 26 team points during the day. In Round 1, Troth won by decision over Michael Landry of Licking Heights with a score of 4-2. Troth then won by major decision over Aiden Kyser of Vermillion in Round 2 with a score of 17-4. In Round 3, Graiden pinned Elijah Gonyer of Findlay in 3 minutes. Keeping the momentum going, Troth pinned Wyatt Hatton of Arcadia in just 29 seconds during Round 4. In the championship match, Troth was defeated by Jordan Hertel of Carey with a score of 7-3.

In the 165-pound weight class, Asa Ames placed 8th. Ames had a record of 1-4 for the day, with 1 pin over Alex Cleveland of Findlay in 1:35. Dakota Densmore wrestled in the 215-pound weight class and placed 8th as well. With an overall record of 1-3, Densmore pinned Robert Laing of Ashland Orange in 4:20. Blake Schultz wrestled in the 285-pound weight class. Schultz had two wins on the day. In the Consolation Bracket, Schultz won by major decision over Zach Altvater of Arcadia with a score of 14-0 and a decision over Parker Nelson of Findlay with a score of 7-2.

The Raider Wrestling Team will travel to the Triad Duals on February 10th before heading to the GMC's. Good luck to the Raider Wrestlers as they continue their season!

ANTWERP WRESTLING CLUB PERFORMS WELL AT HOME TOURNAMENT

The Antwerp Wrestling Club recently wrestled in the 3rd leg of the GMC tournament series at home on Sunday, February 4, 2024. All 27 young Archers were able to place in the top 4 of their respective weight classes. Placing 4th on the day were Kimber Weible, Paizley Cover, Wynter Johnson, Sebastian Yanez, Oliver McCague, Lan-

dyn Hermiller, and Emma White. Finishing 3rd on the day were Ava Bauer, Starlette Ruffing, Casey Justinger, Blade Ruffing, Rylee Slattman, Aubree Frost, Richard Adams, Cooper Nestleroad, and Edwin White.

Earning 2nd place were Carl Kosch, Deacon Miller, Greysyn Hermiller, Mary Adams, and Adelynnne Slattman. The Archers also crowned 5 undefeated at their home tournament on Sunday. Bryson Perry, Brody Adams, Olivia Kosch, Ulrick Zijlstra, and Jameson Graham.

Congratulations to all of the Archer wrestlers for their very successful home tournament and we look forward to next week at Ayersville for the 4th leg of the GMC tournament series. The wrestling club coaches would also like to acknowledge all of the parents and volunteers for not only their donations but their selfless effort in running through over 600 matches in the timeliest manner possible. We truly could not put on a great tournament year in and year without the dedication of our volunteers. GO ARCHERS!!

WILDCATS HOLD OFF WT FOR WIN

Wayne Trace made the trip to Putnam County Saturday afternoon for a non-league girls basketball contest where host Miller City recorded a 49-43 victory over the Lady Raiders.

Jordan Schnipke scored 17 points and Maddie Erford added ten for Miller City, which improved to 12-6 overall with the victory.

Ava Ruck added eight markers for the Lady Wildcats while Andrea Pfau (six), Hailey Warnimont (four) and Isabel Reyna (four) completed the scoring for Miller City.

Wayne Trace put a trio of players in double figures, led by Lexi Moore with 14 points and Careen Winans chipped in a dozen. Harper Myers also had ten points for the red, white and blue.

Kathleen Stoller (three), Ava Zartman (two) and Tianna Sinn (two) completed the scoring for Wayne Trace, which falls to 11-7.

The host Wildcats led 19-16 at the end of one quarter and pushed the margin to 34-22 at halftime. Miller City took a 44-37 advantage into the final period.

2024 GMC ALL CONFERENCE SCHOLAR ATHLETES

The Green Meadows Conference announces the "All Conference Scholar Athletes" for 2024.

To be eligible for this honor, the athlete must be a senior, participate and letter

LADY ARCHERS OUTPACE LOCOMOTIVES



Antwerp Junior Maddy Peters attempts to save the ball from a Locomotive steal. The Antwerp Lady Archers defended their home court and picked up a win on Saturday, February 3rd against Montpelier, 46-40. Photo by Lions Eye Photography.

in a recognized sport or cheerleading and have a 3.5 GPA or better after 7 semesters.

ANTWERP

Hannah Molitor, Brook Molitor, Aewyn McMichael, Emma Townley, Landon Brewer, Reid Lichty, Isabella Meyer

AYERSVILLE

Ben Amoroso, Brady Clark, Lucas Fishpaw, Carter Michel, Taylor Craft, Kiersten Manon, Mabel McGuire, Ally Schindler, Kasen Wellman, Dawn Hibbard

EDGERTON

Clara Gerschütz, Kaden Kennerk, Kennedy Stunt

FAIRVIEW

Jude Shvinger, Kasen Kauffman, Klayton Boland,

Bethany Singer, Kelly Crites, Alexis Taylor, Haley Hammer

HICKSVILLE

Trista Bond, George Green, Alex Kenner, Shalee Miller, Hayden Neidhardt, Brayden Slatte

PAULDING

Casey Agler, Tytus Manz, Elli Barton, Trinity Salazar

TINORA

Gavin Bowers, Andrew Richardson, Moran Diaz, Abby Wiemken, Owen Ackerman, Aiden Rittenhouse, Addison Lee, Karli Okuley, Savanna Brooks, Teylan Gilroy, Isaiah Goliver

WAYNE TRACE

Kyle Stoller, Hudson Myers, Meg Thompson, Briley Coffman, Lynsey Pease

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THE LEFT TURN



Attica Raceway Park to increase weekly purse money. Action Photos



USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets to get more exposure in 2024. Campbell Photography

By: Ron Burt Attica To Increase Payouts

This week we have more news from Attica Raceway Park. Justin Liskai, the speedways Director of Operations sent out a statement this week. Attica Raceway Park will increase both its weekly purses and its point funds in 2024. "The cost of racing has increased, and we recognize that and have been working hard to try and help our loyal race teams. Thanks to generous support from our marketing partners and fans we will be able to add more money to our weekly purses. The total point fund for our 410 and 305 sprints and late models will be \$50,000.00".

He went on to say, "If one 410 sprint driver wins the Attica track championship and the titles at Fremont Speedway and the Attica

Fremont Championship Series, he or she will earn a total of \$30,000.00". For 2024, all non-sanctioned 410 sprint car events will pay \$4,000 to win (\$400 to start). A total of \$2,600 has been added to the weekly 410 purse. The purse for the weekly 305 sprints has also been increased. The track increased the B-main non-transfer to \$150 for the 410 sprints and start money to \$400.00". The B-main non-transfer cars for the late models and 305 sprints has been increased as well to \$75.00.

The total weekly, non-sanctioned purse for the Callie's Performance Products 410 Sprints will be over \$15,000.00 in 2024. The total weekly, non-sanctioned purse for the Dirt Nerds Podcast Powered by Propane UMP Late Models will total over \$6,800.00 and the Fre-

mont Fence 305 Sprints purse is \$5,800.00.

Thunder Midgets Getting More Exposure

The USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets have been busy releasing schedule updates. The exposure to other speedways in the tri-state will be good for the series and the drivers. Many are just waiting for sponsors to put them in the National Touring USAC Midget Series. Last week it was announced they would be the support class for two USAC National Sprint races at Circle City Raceway in 2024. The USAC Midwest Thunder Midgets will return to Kokomo Speedway on Saturday July 27th as the support class to the USAC National Sprint Speedweek race. Due to a request from USAC this event will be limited to 24 entries, based on the points standings. This is great for these young drivers to compete in front of national sponsors and racing teams. When they return this spring to Fremont Speedway, May4th, that race will be televised nationally on DIRTvision. The USAC Thunder Midgets will return to Limaland and other area tracks. I was personally happy to see they will be a part of the Ohio Sprint Speedweek, supporting the 410 sprints at the historic Millstream Speedway in Findlay.

The series also announced Christian Dunn has joined their team as traveling announcer. Christian will complement the host track's announcer, bringing additional knowledge the series, drivers, and sponsors to enhance the fan experience. He will also serve as a resource in the tower, assisting with lineups and scoring, and clarifying club race procedures.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! ohioportsblitz@yahoo.com

SOIL SECURITY

Recently (January 2023), Derpsch and seven other world soil scientist (Including retired Don Reicosky, USDA-ARS) wrote about declining soil productivity worldwide. These are their direct findings. Life on earth has been sustained for 3.8 billion years due to life supporting "natural laws". Humans have tilled the soil for more than 10,000 years. These scientist found that most tillage operations are short terms solutions but create long term problems. Most of our soil problems are the result of tillage and trying to correct those problems, but it only gets worse, not better with more tillage.

A landmark study in 1995 by Pimmental and others, discovered that almost 1 Billion acres of farmable land or one-third the world's farmable acreage had been lost to erosion. More than 95% of our food originates from soil and when soils degrade it threatens human survival. Derpsch and others (2006) outlined the negative effects of tillage. They include loss of soil organic matter (SOM) which holds soil nutrients, increased soil erosion, declining soil structure or increased soil compaction, reduced water infiltration, reduced drainage, increased water and nutrient

WAYNE TRACE 8th GRADE GIRLS WIN GREEN MEADOWS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



Members of the team include (L-R) Brooke Tigner, Lily Shepherd, Karsyn Troth, Kenzie Ogle, Nicole Gerschutz, Cayla Noggle, Aubrie Stoller, Addyson LaBounty, Peyton Sennebogen, Grace McKinney (manager), Cora Baumle (manager) and head coach Kelly Davis.

The Wayne Trace Eighth Grade girls basketball team won the Green Meadows Conference Championship on Saturday with a 25-23 victory over Ayersville at Paulding

High School. Addyson LaBounty hit a running ten foot jumper as time expired to give the Lady Raiders the victory and finished with a game-high 14

points for Wayne Trace. Cayla Noggle (five), Kenzie Ogle (three), Brooke Tigner (two) and Nicole Gerschutz (one) also scored for the red, white and blue.

runoff, and changes to soil biology (more soil bacteria, less fungi, less beneficial microbes, less predators that consume pests). When soils degrade, it contributes to decreased soil productivity, decrease crop yields and food insecurity. Agricultural sustainability or the conservation of our soils is critical to long-term human survival.

Some scientist and farmers naturally argue we can get better yields with more fertilizer, more pesticides, and more inputs. True short-term, but at what cost? At some point the loss of SOM and soil nutrients cause environmental problems with drinkable water, and increased disease or pests (both crops and human) due to harmful chemicals. Nature has natural solutions to these problems, maybe we need to learn and try to adapt to those "natural laws" first.

The soil scientist promote Conservation Agriculture (CA) which has three main natural laws. First, minimize or do no soil disturbance. Second, have permanent biomass on the soil surface. Most farmers think this is impossible on conventional tilled soils but on healthy CA soils, it works. Just look at your woods, pasture, fence lines, or long-term hay fields. Which has better soil properties, the conventional or the long-term CA soil? Third, maximize crop diversity which includes diversified crop rotations and long-term cover crop mixes. In a CA system, roots feed the microbes and the microbes feed the plants while they (roots, soil organisms) improve the soil together.

The following are the top ten reasons for tillage with a rebuttal to each one. Farmers till soil to plant their seed or crop. In healthy CA soils, direct seeding is possible with proper equipment modifications (especially sharp disc blades). Second, tillage is used to break up compacted layers (mostly from previous tillage operations). In CA systems, the increased SOM and improved soil structure are sponges that keep soils from compacting. Some farmers till to decrease soil crusting or to increase water infiltration short-term. Healthy soils do not have soil crusting issues and CA increases water infiltration long-term without tillage.

Fifth, farmers till to remove vegetation and pests. In healthy CA, there are less pests including weeds, insects, and disease because the soil has natural predators that keep pests in check.

One benefit of tillage is that it warms the soil for spring planting. Cold water from the winter is removed by drying out the soil (0.5-1.0 inch per tillage pass). In healthy CA soils, water should naturally drain once compaction is removed and soil structure improves. This problem is the hardest and the longest to fix once a soil has been degraded. An alternative is to use strip till (20% tillage over the seed furrow, 80% no-till between the rows). Farmers use tillage to incorporate nutrients and to mix soil layers. In healthy CA, the good soil structure, high SOM, and improved water infiltration move nutrients into the soil where living roots (the crop followed by cover crop) keep nutrients recycling.

Finally, some farmers believe that tillage reduces soil erosion. If that is true, why

has 1/3 of the world's farming land eroded? Tillage dominates on most of our USA soils. The last one is a matter of pride. Clean fields, straight furrows, and satisfaction of doing a good hard day's work after a tillage operation is a common theme. Maybe we need to learn to change our thinking on that matter. As one farmer told me, the first 40 acres may be fun to do tillage (the roars of the engine, the power) but after a while, the seat of the pants gets tired and the fuel bill keeps going up. Something to think about!

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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Kindergarten and 1st Grade Winners from Left to Right: Korbyn Meares (K), Raelyn Clement (1st), Scarlett Fink (1st), Finn Levy (1st), Riley Klepper (K), Not pictured: Landon Schwartz (K)



2nd grade Winners: Left to Right: Emily Goble, Addison Haupt, Brynn Altman



4th Grade Winners: Reagan Warren, Ella Gonzalez, Vivian Handy

(Continued from Page 1)

mitted by the students will be used as decorations for the event.

DOLLAR GENERAL OPENS NEW DG MARKET IN GROVER HILL

Dollar General is excited to announce its new DG Market at 101 N. Main Street in Grover Hill is now open! The new DG Market store format features an expanded selection of fresh meats, fruits and vegetables, as well as the same categories, brands and products customers trust Dollar General to carry.

"We are excited to provide Grover Hill residents with our new DG Market format and look forward to welcoming customers to our new location," said Matthew Simonsen, Dollar General's senior vice president of real estate and store development. "At Dollar General, we are committed to serving our customers with a pleasant shopping experience and strive to be a good corporate citizen. The new DG Market format aims to provide the Grover Hill community with closer access to fresh and healthier foods and a convenient location to purchase the items they want and need at everyday low prices. We hope our customers will enjoy the new store."

DG stores are proud to provide area residents with an affordable and convenient store location to purchase household essentials including food, cleaning supplies, paper products, over-the-counter medicines, hygiene products, baby items and more through its mission of Serving Others. In addition to the national and private branded products customers trust Dollar General to carry, the new Grover Hill location includes the Company's new stylish, on-trend home décor and an expanded party preparation selection.

Dollar General plans to create new jobs in the Grover Hill community as the store is expected to employ approximately 10-15 people, depending on the individual needs of the store. Individuals interested in joining the DG team may review available positions and apply online at www.dollargeneral.com/careers. The

Company provides employees with competitive wages, world-class and award-winning training and development programs and benefits including day-one telemedicine eligibility as well as health insurance coverage options, 401K savings and retirement plans, tuition reimbursement, paid parental leave and adoption assistance to eligible employees.

Furthermore, DG strives to be a good neighbor and is committed to the communities it proudly calls home, evidenced by unwavering support of literacy and education initiatives through the Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The addition of the Grover Hill store opens the opportunity for schools, nonprofit organizations and libraries within a 15-mile radius of the store to apply for Dollar General Literacy Foundation grants. Since its inception in 1993, the Dollar General Literacy Foundation has awarded more than \$238 million in grants to nonprofit organizations, helping more than 19.6 million individuals take their first steps toward literacy or continued education. For more information about the Dollar General Literacy Foundation and its grant programs, visit www.dgliteracy.com.

Normal hours of operation may be found through the Dollar General app.

CITY OF WOODBURN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 1/15/24

The meeting began at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. In attendance was Mayor Kelsey, Clerk-Treasurer Hileman, Superintendent Walls as well as Council Member Gerig, Gentz and Graber.

Chief's Report: Not Present.
Superintendent's Report: There was a broken water main on Front Street and RD 101 that would be fixed around 1/18/24 as the weather was near zero degrees for the days following the meeting. Christmas lights will be taken down the week of 01/29/24.

Mayor's Report: The mayor began by explaining what TIF (Tax increment Financing) money was and how the city uses it. Mayor sent a letter to Allen County in support of North American Cold storage's property being rezoned. Mayor noted the Owners and the city have a good relationship that we would like to continue. Mayor also sent a letter to Allen County in support of Gerber's Electric's property to be rezoned as well. Mayor asked everyone present if they were still using zoom accounts. It was determined that the membership would be canceled as we use Microsoft Teams now.

Clerk-Treasurer's Report: The meeting minutes were presented from the January 2nd meeting. After discussion, Council Member Gerig moved to accept the minutes from the January 2nd meeting as presented, second by Council Member Gentz, all present in favor. The warrants were presented. After discussion, Council Member Gerig moved to pay the warrants as presented, second by Council Member Graber, all present in favor. The fence Woodburn youth league asked for Common Council to help fund had been completed and the bill was submitted for payment. The bill was sent in full for \$4,512.94 but Council had previously only approved \$4000.00. There was a discussion to pay an extra \$512.94 to pay the bill in full. After discussion, Council Member Gerig moved to pay the additional \$512.94 for a total of \$4,512.95, seconded by Council Member Graber, All present in favor. Clerk-Treasurer presented charges from Mayor Kelsey's credit card from a local diner. The mayor explained the charges and after discussion, Council Member Gerig moved to pay for the meals, seconded by Council Member Graber. All present in favor. Clerk-Treasurer asked Superintendent Walls to run a water meter report for a resident so we could see if a leak had been fixed.

Councilmen's Report: Nothing to report. New Council Member received their laptops and business cards.

Audience: Nothing to report, none present.

Council Member Gerig moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Council Member Graber, all present in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

Go to www.cityofwoodburn.org to see previously approved minutes and recent community news.

HICKSVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING 2/5/24

Rob Bailey was sworn in as Councilman at the February 5 Hicksville Village Council meeting. Bailey will fill the remainder of the term (through December

HOLTSBERRY SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Mark Holtsberry (Paulding County Historian) as the guest speaker at the February 8, 2024, club meeting. Mark came at the invitation of Bret Mack (Fiscal Officer, Paulding County Carnegie Library). Bret was

unable to attend the meeting, so Mark was introduced by Cory Walker (Director, Paulding County Carnegie Library). Mark spoke to the Kiwanians about his passion for the military history of Paulding County and what he does to try to preserve the memories of those soldiers.

31, 2025) vacated by the election of Mike Barth as Mayor in November.

Following approval of minutes and bills, Council moved into the reports portion of the meeting. Councilwoman Toni Egly reported on the recent Police/Fire/EMS meeting which dealt mainly with suggestions as to ways to reorganize and improve the EMS department. She presented a written plan submitted by department representative Bruce Silcott and asked Council to hold a special

meeting on February 12 to discuss plans and options. Also, at that meeting, a representative from a prospective outside billing company would be able to present to discuss working with the Village to take over the billing process for the department.

Village Administrator Cory Wann reported on two recent water main

(Continued on Page 11)

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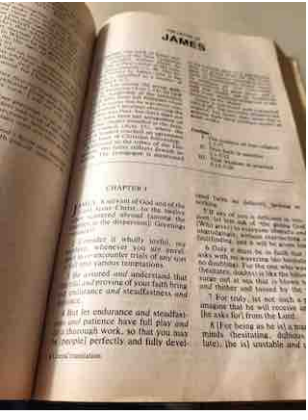
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A STUDY OF JAMES

I have difficulty with a verse by verse study of the Bible. I like to look for the story it is trying to portray. We might need to read the book several times, perhaps in one sitting. James repeats the main topics. Let's give this a try and take a look at the entire book of James. (Amplified Bible)

1. Patience; 1:2-4, 1:12-15, 5:7-12
 Consider it joyful, when you encounter trials or fall into temptations. Trials will prove your faith and bring out endurance, and steadfastness, and patience. Test into testimony.

This seems like a difficult thing to do. When we suffer tragedy, it is hard, if not impossible to rejoice in it. We have to believe that this will strengthen our faith. Life is difficult but we must believe that this will strengthen our endurance and patience.

2. Being rich (Wealthy); 1:9-11, 2:2-9, 5:1-6

You'll notice the technique of repeating a topic. Reputation can be a great way to teach something. What can I say about being rich? I don't think I have that problem, but in our country we do have an abundance. The Bible says a great deal about economic discrimination but there is no discussion about racial discrimination that I have found. We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Bible says a rich man comes into your assembly and you take him down in front

and fuss over him, and a poor man comes in and you tell him to sit in back and pay no attention to him. Often we say to the poor it is their fault, and it may be, but we must treat them with respect. And then there are the benevolent rich. The owner of Hobby Lobby, will probably give away every penny ever made.

V1:9, Let the brother in humble circumstances glory at being an heir of God. And the rich person in being humbled, because like the flower in the field, he will pass away.

3. Be a doer, 1:21-27, 2:14-27

You must have faith first, then works will follow. This seems like a difficult task, but you must have both to be a strong Christian.

4. Watch your tongue! 1:26-27, 3:1-12

Is there one among us who has not said something and then wished you had never said it. The tongue is a powerful instrument and can cut deeply, leaving deep scars. You must be constantly vigilant in what you say. I have often thought if I would write down everything I say before I say it. ... Something I just noticed today.

1:19 quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to take offense. Wow, do we have thin skin? There are always two sides.

5. Wisdom 1:5-8, 3:13-18

One of the great topics of the Bible. Do we ask God for wisdom? I am not sure what a man would look like if he would be wise.

V5. If any of you lack wisdom, ask God and he will give it to you abundantly without reproach.

6. In two instances chapter 2 repeats chapter 1. 1:9-11=2:1-14; 1:21-27=3:13-18

This is only a beginning study. Even if you wish to study verse by verse that is fine, and you will notice the repetition. It is a short book and you can read it a half dozen times, each in a single setting, before you start the study.

—James Neuhausser

(Continued from Page 10)

breaks. He mentioned a recent splash pad pre-construction meeting and its progress. Plans now include construction beginning in early April with completion of the project scheduled for August 1. The Village is also dealing with clear water intrusion from Haver Drive causing the lift station to run excessively. They are working to correct the problem. Wann also reported issues with grease in the sanitary lines. He reminds citizens there is an ordinance in place to deal with these problems resulting in misdemeanor charges and fines up to \$1,000 per offense.

Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith presented several pieces of legislation for Council action. Ordinance 2023-19, Ordinance 2024-04, Resolution 2024-02,

Resolution 2024-03 and Resolution 2024-04 received readings. Each was declared an emergency, rules suspended, final readings presented, and passed by Council.

Police Chief Mark Denning reported on January statistics and asked for executive session to discuss personnel.

Fire Chief Bruce Hart reported on unit repairs. The certification of the ladder truck was discussed.

Hicksville Village Council Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith presented a number of regular reports and updates to Council.

Wastewater Superintendent Joel Jacobs presented an update on department activities.

Mayor Barth asked Council about moving to non-partisan system for Council. This would eliminate the need

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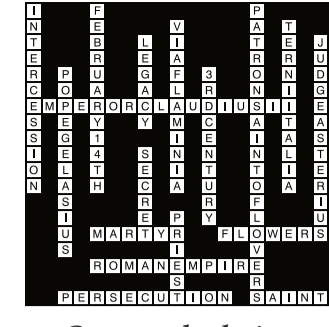
DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

for primary election. Signatures will need to be collected and filed with the County Board of Elections to initiate the process. Council members voiced their support for moving to the non-party system, beginning in November 2024. Mayor Barth announced the Village recognizes February as Career and Technical Education Month recognizing Four County Career Center and its programs. Council adjourned into executive session with no action reported. There will be a special Council meeting on Monday, February 12 at 6 pm. The next regular Council session will be Monday, February 19, 2024 at 6 pm in Council chambers.

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



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



Crossword solution from page 9

JOB OPENING
ZONING / BUILDING OFFICIAL
 The Village of Hicksville is accepting applications and resumes for a Zoning and Building Official. This position is responsible for enforcing all zoning, ordinance and building regulations and issues necessary permits and is also the CRA Officer. Responds to inquiries from the public and other agencies. Must have a high school diploma or GED. Required to have a valid Ohio driver's license. A BCI background check and drug screen is required. Please contact the Village Administrator with any questions at viladmin@defnet.com or 419-542-6138
 THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

PAULDING COUNTY Board of Health Term Available
 Paulding – The District Advisory Council (DAC) is seeking an individual to fill a five (5) year term on the Paulding County Board of Health, beginning March, 2024. The Board of Health provides direction to the Health Department.
 The candidate must be a Paulding County resident who is interested in promoting health and safety and improving public health in our county. For more information about the Board of Health or to express an interest in this position, please contact Brandi Schrader, Deputy Health Commissioner, at brandis@pcohhd.com or by calling 419-399-3921 ext. 8416 by February 26, 2024.

JOB POSTING
NUCOR®
VULCRAFT INDIANA
POSITION: TRUCK SHOP MECHANIC
 Vulcraft Indiana is seeking applicants for the position of Truck Shop Mechanic in the Sales Service Department. The successful candidate must be committed to the pursuit of excellence in safety, quality, costs, and overall profitability of the division. This position is a hourly swing shift ROA bonus position.
 The role of a Truck Shop mechanic is to SAFELY repair and perform preventive maintenance on all company mobile equipment. Perform field repairs to equipment during all hours and weather conditions as required. Willing and able to work overtime with little or no advanced notice. Maintain equipment compliance with FMCSA & D.O.T. regulations. Actively participate in the company's safety program.
 Safety is the most important part of all jobs within Nucor; therefore, candidates must be able to demonstrate the ability to initiate, lead, and uphold safety policies, practices, procedures, and housekeeping standards at all times.

- MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**
- 3 years' experience in diesel commercial motor vehicle diagnosis and repair.
 - Electronic engine controls and computer-based diagnosis.
 - Diagnosis and repair of gasoline engines, hydraulic and electrical repair
 - Class B CDL driver's license to be obtained within 1 year.
- DETAILED SELECTION CRITERIA:**
- Initiative-Being proactive with seeking out work that needs to be done and being willing to take on responsibilities and challenges.
 - Dependability-Being reliable, responsible, and committed to fulfilling obligations. Communication- The ability to give full attention to what others are saying and communicating information so that others will understand.
 - Teamwork-working as part of a coordinated effort with others to achieve a common goal.
- PREFERENCES:**
- Cummins engine diagnosis certifications
 - Class A driver's license.
 - Certified in R134A mobile air conditioning systems. Experienced in welding, aluminum a plus.
 - Trailer repair and trailer maintenance.
 - Previous experience in forklift repair and operation. Basic computer skills.

Must have supervisor and/or manager recommendation and must be able to perform all essential functions of the job with or without a reasonable accommodation.

Individuals who would like to learn more about opportunities at Vulcraft-Indiana should register at:

https://jobs.nucor.com

All communications will be via email, must provide a valid email address

Nucor Vulcraft-Indiana does not accept unsolicited resumes. No phone calls please.

Nucor is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer-M/F/Disabled/Vets-and a drug-free workplace

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LADY WARRIORS WIN SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Woodlan girls Claim the sectional championship title on Saturday, February 3, 2024. Photo credit: Kim Kneubuhler

Woodlan's girls basketball team captured its first sectional championship in 34 seasons Saturday night as the Lady Warriors defeated Concordia 53-45 at Garrett High School.

The Warriors advance to the Class 3A regional contest at Lapel where they will take on Hamilton Heights, a 37-36 winner over Jay County in sectional final action.

Woodlan won the sectional behind a tremendous effort from sophomore Alyssa Anderson, who led the way with a double-double that in-

cluded 23 points and 17 rebounds.

Senior Taylor Kneubuhler also had a double-double for Woodlan with ten points and ten boards while junior Brooke Kneubuhler chipped in nine

ers, three rebounds, two assists and five steals.

Senior Chloe Gaff picked up seven points and nine rebounds for the Lady Warriors and junior Reagan Widenhoefer posted four points, two boards and three steals. Taylor Kneubuhler also dished out a pair of assists for the Lady

Warriors.

Junior Alix Jacquay hauled down a pair of rebounds as well for Woodlan, which improved to 18-8 overall on the season.

Woodlan's last sectional championship came during the 1989-1990 season as the Warriors defeated DeKalb 53-42 at the home of the Barons. The Lady Warriors went on to defeat Fort Wayne Bishop Luers 60-41 in the regional semifinal before falling to Fort Wayne Bishop Dwenger 54-52 in the regional championship.

FIRST FINANCIAL BANK SUPPORTS LOCAL UNITED WAY



Jenna Strayer (Preferred Banker), Brad Harsha (Financial Wellness Specialist), Natosha Mendoza (Financial Center Manager), Deena Aviles (District Leader), Lora Lyons (Executive Director of United Way of Paulding County).

First Financial Bank donates \$5,000 to United Way of Paulding County to help with Community Development. United Way works with local organizations and

government entities to support and fight for Health, Education & Financial Stability for the residents of Paulding County. "Donations like this allow us to

support early literacy, help combat food insecurity, and support grassroot programs that address our current needs. This will go a long way to building a better community!" Stated Lora Lyons, Executive Director for United Way. If you would like to donate, or learn more about what United Way does, you can do so online at www.uwpc-h.org. Direct payments can be mailed to 101 E. Perry St., Paulding, OH 45879.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

The Center for Lifelong Learning is pleased to announce its first excursion of 2024, with a same-day trip to Zekelman Holocaust Center and Exploration of Marvin's Marvelous Mechanical Museum in Farmington Hills, MI on Wednesday, April 17th.

Board a deluxe, chartered motor coach to visit the Zekelman Holocaust Center. Founded in 1984, the Zekelman Holocaust Center (The HC) first opened its doors on the campus of the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield as the Holocaust Memorial Center and relocated to the current award-winning building in 2004. The HC houses not only our core museum exhibits, but an extensive research library, archives, and a gallery for special art and history exhibits.

Marvin's Marvelous Mechanic Museum is like taking a stroll through mechanical history. Enjoy over 5000 square feet of vintage coin-operated machines, macabre, oddities, unusual nostalgia, and the newest video game crazes. Model airplanes, ceiling fans, movie posters, col-

lector's items and neon signs along with other amazing antique memorabilia cover the tall walls and ceiling. The experience is fun and unforgettable for all ages.

REGISTER BY MARCH 15, 2024

Adults 50 and over are invited to participate in this special day trip, presented by the NSCC Center for Lifelong Learning (CFL). Interested parties are asked to register by Friday, March 15th. You may call in your reservation if you need to make the deadline and send a check to the College up through March 17th.

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

SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES AVAILABILITY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library's Susan Deatrack, Head of Youth Services has received a grant for Solar Eclipse viewing glasses from SEAL (Solar Eclipses Activities for Libraries). The project was funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.

The mission of the Gordon and Betty Moore foundation was established to create positive outcomes for future generations. In pursuit of that vision, they advance scientific discovery, environmental conservation, and the special character of the San Francisco Bay Area. The SEAL network has distributed almost 5 million glasses to over 12,500 participating libraries.

The library will be distributing glasses to all county schools first and the remainder will be available for pick up at the library on a first come first served basis, while supplies last. The glasses will be limited to two per person.

The glasses will become available on March 18. Stop by your local library and pick up your glasses for safely viewing the eclipse on April 8.

AMERICAN RED CROSS TO HOLD BLOOD DRIVE IN HICKSVILLE

On Thursday, February 22, 2024 American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive in the gym at First Church of Christ, 118 N. Main St, Hicksville, OH. The drive will be held from 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: fcchicksville to schedule an appointment.

Share your heart! Come give in February and receive a \$20 Amazon.com Gift Card by email. See rcblood.org/ heart for more details.

THIS WEEK ON PCBW: SOMETHING BRAVE SUPPLY COMPANY



Did you miss out on Lofton Brown's inspiring presentation and marketing strategy at the Paulding County Economic Development banquet last November? Don't worry, we've got you covered! Tune in to the latest episode of Paulding County Business Weekly as we sit down with Lofton and his dad Tim to learn about the story behind their family hat business, Something Brave Supply Company. Hear about

their entrepreneurial journey, strategies for success, and the passion driving their brand.

Catch this episode airing on MY102.7 FM every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM. Can't tune in at those times? You can also listen online at www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/ or find us on your favorite podcast platform. A special thanks to OhioMeansJobs for sponsoring this program.

MERAZ SELECTED AS AMERICANISM STATE WINNER



Olivia Meraz, a senior at Wayne Trace High School, has been selected as a State Winner of the 2023-2024 American Legion Americanism and Government Test program. Because Olivia is a State Winner, she has earned a trip to Washington D.C. sponsored by The American Legion Department of Ohio.

Olivia is the daughter of Saul and Lucinda Meraz of Paulding. Olivia is pictured with Mr. Jack Baumle, a teacher at Wayne Trace. Mr. Baumle organizes the Americanism and Government tests for Wayne Trace students and represents The Reuben J. Smith American Legion Post 297 in Payne, Ohio.

Baughman Tile Company, the regional leader of corrugated plastic pipe, is now hiring for the following positions:

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