

HUSKIES TOO MUCH FOR WOODLAN IN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY



Sectional Champs - Woodlan girls basketball team were recognized during half-time of the Woodlan boys game against Eastside last Tuesday, February 13th. The Lady Warriors made school history by getting a spot in the Regional Championship game after 30+ years.

Hamilton Heights proved to be too much in the regional championship as the Huskies recorded a 55-31 victory over Woodlan in IHSAA tournament action Saturday.

The loss ends a great season for the Lady Warriors, who captured a sectional championship and finished the year with an overall record of 18-9.

Ella Hickock led the Huskies with 28 points, four rebounds, three assists and six steals while Camryn Runner

chipped in 22 points, three boards, three assists and four steals.

Katie Brown recorded four points and three steals for Hamilton Heights with Hadleigh Cherry picking up one point. The Huskies are now 24-2 overall on the season.

Alyssa Anderson and Taylor Kneubuhler bucketed eight points for Woodlan and Brooke Kneubuhler posted seven markers. Chloe Gaff also had six points for the

Lady Warriors with Reagan Widenhoefer finishing with two points.

Anderson also had six boards for Woodlan with Gaff getting five while Widenhoefer and Taylor Kneubuhler recorded three each. Brooke Kneubuhler dished out three assists to pace the Lady Warriors.

The contest was the final one in a Woodlan uniform for the senior trio of Taylor Kneubuhler, Chloe Gaff and Leah Elwood.

VOLUNTEERS PAINT ALL 3,840 SQ FT OF THE NEW CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY BUILDING



The new building project for the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry was ready for its interior walls to be painted. In two days, volunteers paint all 3,840 square feet of the newly constructed space!

"It all came together quickly," said Jodi Schneider, executive director. "We put the word out and within a little more than a week, we had nearly 40 volunteers step forward. The painting was done in just two days!"

The pantry team received the go ahead from the contractor, Hartzog Construction, on Thursday, Jan. 25. By

Wednesday, Jan. 31, the prep, priming and ceiling paint was complete — thanks to the donation of Krynock Brothers Construction. Volunteer crews of 4-10 people painted for 4-to-6-hour shifts on Feb. 1-2. By Saturday morning, Feb. 3, all that was left was final touch ups and clean up.

Thank you to all the painting volunteers who included:

Amber Krynock, Nathan Krynock, Will Krynock, Ellie Krynock, Caleb Krynock, Norah Krynock, Ike Andrews, Dan Olwin, Jonny Reinhard, Kyla Reinard, Tim Neer, Nova

(Continued on Page 2)

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JPHS MUSEUM'S ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER TO DISCUSS HISTORICAL PHOTOS



The John Paulding Historical Society will hold its annual membership meeting and election of directors at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25, at the museum located across from the fairgrounds in Paulding. The program and meeting are free and open to the public.

The program will feature guest speaker Bryce Steiner,

who created the large-scale photo montage boards for the Paulding County Bicentennial in 2020. The boards, on display in the courthouse, show hundreds of vintage photographs of people, places and events from the county's history. Steiner will share the process involved in the

(Continued on Page 2)

OAKWOOD FIRE DEPT TO HOST FISH FRY

The Oakwood Fire Department is planning a Fish Fry on March 16th at the fire station in Oakwood. The event will take place from 4:00-7:00 pm

at the fire station. All are welcome! All proceeds will go towards updating outdated fire equipment & replacing gear.

PHS STUDENT TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL QUIZ TOURNAMENT



Xander Schwab has been invited to compete at the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT's) 2024 Individual Player National Championship Tournament in Chicago on April 7, 2024. This year, PHS qualified for

NAQT's Small School National Championship Tournament in late April and will be competing as a team, thanks in part to Xander's performance at the Toledo Area Academic Quiz Bowl Tournament in December; however, the Individual Player National Championship Tournament is a separate event, one that only Xander was invited to. He joined Quiz Bowl last year as a freshman, and while he has always been a strong player, he has grown throughout the fall league. Last winter, Xander scored an average of 30 points per game, which placed him 4th in the GMC JV rankings overall. However, this fall, he scored an average of 59 points per game and scored the second-highest total points in the JV Division!

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

Community Calendar

- MON & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p
- 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 23**
- Paulding KofC Fish Fry, 11a-1p & 4-7p
 - DC Trans. Improv meeting @ Commissioner Rm, 10am
- February 28**
- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p
- March 1**
- Paulding KofC Fish Fry, 11a-1p & 4-7p
- March 1-3**
- Tractor Show, @ Northtowne Mall, Defiance, OH, Mall hours; Pedal Pull, Sat., 1pm
- March 2**
- Kids Pedal Pull @Northtowne Mall, Defiance, OH; 1p
- March 6**
- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p
- March 7**
- Community Lenten Svc @ Auglaize Chapel, 7pm

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SOLAR ECLIPSE GLASSES AVAILABLE SOON FROM PCCL



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.

A LITTLE THIS AND THAT

By: Doris Applegate
Scribed by: Cynthia Nicholson

As a ninety-two year old, I'm beginning to know my straight failing and I am having to trust and depend upon the Lord God for everything I need, including my strength. Each day is a big challenge especially when I can not see well.

Being young and full of energy is so wonderful and glorious to be compared to old age and a feeble body that we certainly can understand how Peter, the Apostle of Jesus Christ felt when the Lord Jesus told him that the time would come when other people would lead him around into a place where he did not want to go (John 21:18). We know from reading God's word that Peter gave his life for the Lord Jesus, certainly setting the horrible event of Peter's denial of Jesus Christ.

In our old age we find that we need help everyday and a good neighbor who cares and helps us just as my friend and helper Cynthia does for me. She comes to help at my "beck and call" whenever needed which is

often. She has lived next door to me 18 years and I know the Lord God placed her here for me..

From the time that I gave my life to Jesus Christ God has been loving, kind, protective and generous to me even to this very day. What an awesome God we serve! Our hearts go out to those people who are sick and suffering and dying especially if they are without the Lord Jesus Christ and his great salvation. The time for believers in Jesus to pray is now.

AMEN

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 2/12/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 8:45 a.m. on Monday, February 12, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Conference Room. President Kern called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Dana Phipps and Mick Pocratsky; County Administrator, Sherry Carnahan; HR Coordinator, Emily Meyer; and Clerk, Liz Stuart.

The Commissioners met in General Session to approve and sign various resolutions, contracts, and documents. The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.

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



Bryce Steiner of Antwerp will be the guest speaker at John Paulding Historical Society's annual meeting Sunday, Feb. 25. He will discuss how the photo montage boards were created for display in the Paulding County Courthouse. The public is invited to this free event.

(JPHS ... continued from Page 1)

project, including gathering, selecting and scanning the images and producing and installing the boards.

The photo gallery was unveiled at the bicentennial kickoff event in February 2020. Photos are grouped by subject, such as veterans, canals, logging, industry, railroads and towns. Hundreds of people toured the courthouse that evening to see the 23 boards, measuring up to 4-by-8 feet in size. Unfortunately, within a couple of weeks, everything was shut down due to the Coronavirus outbreak. As a result, relatively few people have seen these amazing historical photos.

The Commissioners met with County Engineer Warren Schlatter for a monthly update. In March, the Engineer's office will be opening bids for several federally funded road resurfacing projects including Banner School Road, Famer Mark Road, Christy Road, and CR 134. His office held a preconstruction meeting for the Mansfield Road bridge replacement, which will be starting in the upcoming weeks and is anticipated to finish as early as mid-April if the project goes smoothly. Mr. Schlatter also updated on the status of the landfill. He stated that they are planning to expand hours for the unmanned recycling drop-off station at the landfill soon.

The Commissioners met with Maintenance Supervisor Ron Cereghin for a quarterly update. He reported on various projects that his staff had completed to maintain county buildings and properties, including new interior paint at the Senior Center and continued monitoring of the Courthouse boiler.

The Commissioners met with Child Support Enforcement Agency Director Crystal Slattman for a quarterly update.

(Caring & Sharing ... continued from Page 1)

Saigo, Carol Razo, Art Razo, Laura Manz, Jennifer Shepherd, Ian Ferguson, Samuel Ferguson, Justin Tacket, Dan Bulau, Ron Sierer, Diana Sierer, Karen Manz, Dong Laukhuf, Trent Laukhuf, Scott Laukhuf, Joyce Laukhuf, Kallie Manz, Kayla Manz, Bonnie Manz, Shelby Aschliman, Ester LeMieux, Chris Bercaw, Les Manz, Mart Keck, Marge Schlatter, Nici Robinson and Jodi Schneider.

Thank you also goes to Paulding Ace Hardware and Rental for donating the use of a motorized scaffolding and discounting 41 gallons of paint.

This community effort saved about \$10,000 that was redirected to cover unanticipated expenses and a long-lasting epoxy floor finish in the market areas.

The new Caring & Sharing Food Pantry will be located at 318 N. Walnut Street in Paulding. An opening date is not yet

Area residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about Paulding County's fascinating history and what great things the county has to offer.

Refreshments will be served after the meeting. Guests may browse the exhibits before and after the meeting. The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding, across from the fairgrounds.

The museum reopens for the year on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Regular hours are Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Admission is free.

In case of bad weather, check the historical society's Facebook page at facebook.com/jphsmuseum for updates.

She has accepted a seat as VP of the Toledo District CSEA Director's Association. The agency collected \$52,356.67 in credit card payments, \$9,101.26 in lump sum payments, and \$22,801.53 in walk in payments for the fourth quarter of 2023. The total collection for Defiance County for 2023 was \$5,240,731.50.

The Commissioners held a meeting to discuss April's Solar Eclipse at the EMA Building. Representatives from the EMA, the Sheriff's office, Economic Development, the Defiance Chamber of Commerce, the Defiance Development and Visitors Bureau, the Village of Sherwood, and Auglaize Village were present to discuss preparations for the solar eclipse that will take place on April 8th. Some entities, including the Defiance Public Library, will have eclipse glasses available to be distributed for free. Defiance City events will be focused at Diehl Park, and viewing areas will also be available at the Defiance County Fairgrounds and Auglaize Village. The Health

Department is offering free temporary campground permits for the weekend before the eclipse.

determined.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the mission of the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is to engage the local giving community and volunteers to help serve our neighbors and work against food insecurity in Paulding County. It operates solely based on food and financial donations from the community and with the support of Feeding American and West Ohio Food Bank, of which it is a member.

Financial donations can still be sent to the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry at P.O. Box 391, Paulding, OH 45879. Please write "building" or "operations" on the check. Any future donations received for the building will be used for furnishings, paving the parking lot and the future installation of a walk-in freezer and a walk-in cooler.

For more information, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook. To contact, the pantry call (419) 399-9562 or email paulding-foodpantry@gmail.com.

Scripture of the Week

"AFor this is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another."

— 1 John 3:11

LATE FOR FUNERALS



The ancient military magazine is no longer in use, but a tourist stop, and the nearby cemetery is full with no living relatives residing in the area.



Matt's Mishaps

"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

Funerals can be times to reflect on tragic death that happened before we thought it was time. Other times, funerals are like family and friend reunions where we celebrate a life lived to its fullest and maybe one that finished at a time later than expected.

Births, graduations, marriages, and funerals are conducted in different ways in each country and culture. I had to awkwardly mishap my way through learning new protocols and expectations at these important life events when living overseas.

We Americans often have an elaborate embalming process for our deceased loved ones that allows funerals to be delayed for days and weeks in order for all to arrive. However, where we live overseas, no such chemicals and processes happen, so funerals occur within a day or two after death. I have missed many funerals as I didn't get word in time about someone's passing.

Cemeteries are also a different affair. As land is limited, people are buried in niches in walls. Unless a person is of very special and significant importance, the niche

is only for a 30-year period, and then they are moved to a large common grave (a pit in the cemetery). We have a cemetery not far from our overseas house that was established by superstitious fisherman some 300 years ago. Foreigners (mainly Dutch and English) who died here were not allowed to be buried on the land (thought to be bad luck), so the bodies were attached to large rocks and sunk at sea. However, fisherman believed their poor catch was caused by the foreigners being buried in their fishing waters. The compromise was a cemetery for foreigners in an undesirable location. Where? The military had a magazine for unstable munitions where none of the living wanted to build nearby, so it was a good location for the foreigners' cemetery.



Our locals overseas did not always have a simple burial process that happened within a day or so after passing. Centuries back the dead were mummified and buried in caves high up in mountains. Mummies are discovered at times after heavy rains dislodge soil and expose unknown caves.

Faster communication makes it easier for me to not be late for funerals, but I am cautious where the cemetery is located.

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

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GIN

We go to back to the mid 1500's and we see a man studying late into the night by candlelight. He is working on developing a medicine that will cleanse a person's body from toxins. His name is Dr Franciscus Sylvius de la Boe, and he is a highly respected Dutch doctor. He did succeed and it is a liquor that we call Gin. It is basically Vodka infused with Juniper Berries for taste.

As I understand Vodka is a neutral spirit, nearly pure alcohol, (96%.) and basically no taste. Juniper Berries are the product of an evergreen tree, and they have got to be bitter. Some types of Gin are Schnapps distilled with Juniper Berries. Allow me to tell you more than I know about liquor. Everything rots. You pile leaves and grass and eventually you will have beautiful fertile compost. In the case of hard cider or wine the sugars turn into alcohol. Sometimes the process is speeded by using yeast. I knew a man that made wine nearly every day of his life out of every fruit or vegetable conceivable. Honey turns into a wine called Mead.

In the case of hard liquor, a mash made out of grain is mixed with water and after the fermenting process is distilled. As a lad I had a flock of ducks, and they could not eat dry feed, so I would mix the mash with water making a slurry which they could eat easily. If for some reason it wasn't all eaten, by the next day it would decay and smell terrible and had to be discarded.

Hard liquors are distilled to 96% alcohol, then reduced by water to 40 or 50%. (80 & 100 proof.) At that time some were reduced by turpentine and sulfuric acid. Some have flavor, like with Gin and Juniper Berries. In the mid 1700s Gin was the drink of choice by the poor living in London. London was rife

with crime, prostitution, and they had decreasing child-birth. Many made their own. Grain was cheap, hence the term bathtub gin. There was a tax of 20 shillings per gallon on any imported liquor. Gin was called Mother's Ruin.

When I was in high school I had a buddy that I hunted rabbits with. He lived out in the country with his mother, and as I look back I wonder if they had any income at all. They're drink of choice was Mogen David wine which they bought by the gallon jug. It was almost cheaper than grape juice. In 1736 England passed a tax on Gin which led to riots, called The Gin Craze. Kind of reminds you of the Baldwin sisters on The Waltons. They were famous for "The Recipe."

In Master Gardeners we had a gentleman that was an expert on wine and beer. He was what you might call rotund. Each fall he would take a tour of 10 wineries in southern Indiana and Kentucky. We also had an expert on bats that traveled the world looking for bats. I believe he found one species with a 3-ft wingspan but don't quote me on that.

I remember reading a book when I was a lad about Billy Sunday, and his battle against liquor in Chicago. He would visit saloons and preach against the problems caused by liquor. I don't remember the prohibition area but we have all heard stories about illegal stills, and the rum runners in our country. There are at least 1,000 different kinds of rum and probably more than that of whiskey, and they ain't cheap. But when you buy it you must get the correct brand.

Dr. Sylvius was somewhat successful because juniper berries do have disinfectant and healing properties. In the 1800's the British invaded India, and their soldiers drank gin to protect against Malaria. Does anyone remember using turpentine as a disinfectant on wounds? If you wish to become an expert on gin I would suggest that you join the World Gin Club.

PS. I have tried many herbal medicines, talked to Jan at the Health Food Shoppe and have never had a great deal of success using herbs. Golden raisins soaked in gin are supposed to be good for arthritis. If you have had success over an extended period of time let me know.

—James Neuhouser

HERITAGE LIONS 25B IN HOAGLAND CHARIS HOUSE



Wanda Demeke of Charis House; Cindy Wolf, Chairperson of the Heritage Lions project.

Wanda Demeke, Director of Program Services at Charis House, gave an interesting talk last night before the Heritage Lions in Hoagland. Charis House is a faith-based division of The Rescue Mission in Fort Wayne that helps homeless women. From their website: "We offer resources that can provide emergency housing, food, and healthcare services, as well as help with job training, education, and childcare. Building a network of support is crucial, and connecting with other families who have faced similar challenges can provide a sense of community and empowerment. It is also important to prioritize self-care and mental health, seeking counseling or therapy if needed."

Charis House houses some 33 women each night, 26 without children who sleep 4-6 in a room, and 7 more private rooms for women with young children. The women stay as long as they need to learn new skills and regain their independence. Daily check-ins are required. All of the women are required to help with the day-to-day operation of the facility. Work skills are facilitated by the Blue Jacket or-

ganization.

Charis House relies completely upon donations from the public. Their greatest need is for supplies, such as diapers, personal care products, t-shirts, leggings, towels and washcloths. Treasure House at 10202 Coldwater Road accepts donations, along with a Thrift Shop to aid the homeless. Eighty-five cents of every dollar donated is used in assisting these homeless women.

The Heritage Lions are in the process of collecting personal care items (such as soap, shampoo, deodorant, women's razors), towels and wash cloths, t-shirts, and other materials to aid Charis House as they assist women experiencing homelessness. If you wish to contribute to this project, please contact Cindy Wolf at speedy-wolf54@gmail.com.

Together We Serve: Our mission is to empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. The Heritage Lions motto is "We Serve" and we welcome anyone who wishes to help their local community to contact a Heritage Lion.

POLL WORK TRAINING IN PAULDING COUNTY



Poll worker training is under way in Paulding County as they prepare for the March 19 primary election. All four county election board members were at the training working together to make sure all of their poll

workers are well trained and educated so they can help their voters when coming to the polls. It's not too late to sign up to be a poll worker and help your community run an accessible, secure, and accurate election.

Good News doesn't just happen. It's made!

Send us your good news and let everyone know of the great things happening in your 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

Perry Nelson Leveck was born in Haviland, Ohio March 20, 1894. The son of Perry Commodore, born February 27, 1853 in Ohio and Rosa Ellen (Daniels) Leveck born February 9, 1857 in Ohio. This couple was married July 17, 1879 in Fayette, Ohio. By 1890, this couple had children Lea born 1876, Viola August 1882, Allie 1885, Effie M. November 18, 1887.

Commodore was a farm laborer in Blue Creek Township. By 1900 a daughter Clara, was born March 19, 1892, followed by Perry March 20, 1894 and Della February 1897, but his wife, Rosa, will passed away April 19, 1900 in Paulding was buried in Blue Creek Cemetery.

By 1910 Commodore, was a day laborer on a farm. His daughter Allie and her daughter Bernice, born in 1885 and Perry were still living at home.

By 1915, Perry had moved out on his own. He was living in Scott, Ohio on the Van Wert side but he was helping his dad.

On June 5, 1917, Perry registered for the draft in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County. He was listed as medium, slender build, brown eyes and brown hair and single. He listed that he had a speech problem.

On July 17, 1918, Perry married a gal named Mary Caroline Foust. Born September 19, 1898 in Morrow County, Ohio. The daughter of James McClellan and Myrtle Viola Foust. Perry's sister, Viola, passed away in 1918 and was buried in Blue Creek Cemetery. On July 22, 1918, he was inducted into the National Army out of Van Wert.

Perry was assigned to the 158th Depot Brigade until August 7, 1918. He then was assigned to Company D. 336th Infantry until October of 1918. Perry became a father October 5, 1918, a daughter, Georgia Ruth was born. Perry was assigned to Company L. 91st Infantry Division as a private. He served in France in the Ypres-Lys Defensive sector. He was sick and wounded. He was at the Base Section 3 Base Hospital #37, at Hartford, England.

On October 24, 1918, Perry's sister, Clara, passed away from influenza and pneumonia. She was buried in Blue Creek Cemetery.

On January 5, 1919, Perry boarded the ship Comfort, I believe this is a hospital ship, from Plymouth, England and sailed for America. He was still on the roster until January 19, 1919. He was honorably discharged March 3, 1919.

On June 6 1919, Perry passed away at home in Hoaglin Township, Van Wert County. He passed due to complications from sugar diabetes, He was buried in Blue Creek Cemetery, section B., lot 180, grave 1. After his death, Mary went to live with Commodore's niece Bernice. Mary remarried April 14, 1934 to a fella named George Williams. and moved to Vaughnsville, Ohio where she lived out her days until she passed September 27, 1972.

She was buried with her second husband in Vaughnsville Cemetery in Putnam County. Perry's daughter, Georgia, passed away May 24, 1992 and was buried in Lima, Ohio.

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CEDARVILLE ELEMENTARY RECEIVES READING ACHIEVEMENT STATE RECOGNITION



The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) hosted the reading achievement celebration, celebrating Indiana schools for achieving the

state's literacy goal of 95% of third graders reading proficiently. Cedarville Elementary School was a recipient of the high honor. Mrs. Renita Pe-

ters, principal and Mrs. Teresa Knoblauch, assistant superintendent of elementary schools was there to receive the recognition.

VANTAGE OPEN HOUSE & "TASTE OF VANTAGE"



Over 800 Sophomores visited two of Vantage Career Center's 18 available programs for enrollment opportunities. Sophomores were able to spend 45 minutes in each program and gain a better understanding of Vantage student life, industry skills and opportunities upon graduation. We look forward to seeing these sophomores, parents and community members at our annual Open House February 26, where a parent/student informational meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Vantage Career Center will be offering an opportunity for local community members, interested adult and high school students, parents, alumni, and associate school district staff to explore Vantage programs at the annual Open House and "Taste of Vantage" set for Monday, February 26, 2024 from 5:00 - 7:30 pm.

The Open House is a celebration of Career and Techni-

cal Education, recognized nationally throughout the month of February, and will highlight both high school and adult education programs. "We welcome this opportunity to open our doors to our community members so they can experience what our student's experiences and training opportunities look like every day," says Community Relations Coordinator Miriam Owens. "This is a

great event for community members or potential students eager to know more about Vantage adult and high school programs, advanced training, skills and equipment, credentials and licenses, and what opportunities are available to students upon graduation, whether they are college or career bound."

Vantage's 18 high school career technical labs will be open, and students will be leading demonstrations of their skills while sharing the opportunities available to them throughout the two years as a Vantage student. Guests will be able to speak with instructors and connect with local employers stationed throughout the building. An informational meeting will be held in the Community Room at 6:00 p.m. for any incoming students and parents.

Vantage Adult Education staff will be available to showcase their full-time and short-term programs, including customized training options for local employers. Current enrollment opportunities in-

clude Police Academy, Practical Nursing, LPN to RN Transition, Phlebotomy, EMT, Firefighter, CDL and STNA programs. Scholarships and financial aid is available for each program. Graduating seniors or adults wanting to gain advanced skills, even employers interested in an upskilled workforce should come to the Open House.

"A Taste of Vantage" will again be held in the Commons Area during Open House. Seven area restaurants will be offering a delicious sampling of some of their most popular cuisine. One ticket will get you one food sample or beverage. All proceeds support the Vantage school-wide student activity fund. Guests will be able to enjoy both sweet and savory sample foods from Black Angus of Van Wert/Ottoville, The Moose Landing Country Club of Ottawa, Millie's Cafe of Ottoville, Convoiy Coffee Roasters of Convoy, Corner Deli Market and Catering of Van Wert, Canal Side Burgers and Brew of Ottoville, and our very own Vantage Culinary Arts program. All food vendors will have their own vendor station, offering menus and other great items for the guests.

The amazing DJ Ron Burt of Magic Moment Entertainment will be the DJ for the evening and will announce special demonstrations and activities going on throughout the building. The Vantage Open House would not be able to take place without our food vendors, emcee or sponsors; including, Unverferth Manufacturing, Dark Horse Productions, Lange Photographics, VTF Excavation, TruLand Equipment, Lee Kinstle GM/Taylor Auto Sales, Central Mutual Insurance, and Alliance Automation.

To learn more about Open House, visit vantagecareercenter.com or the Vantage Career Center Facebook page.

Looking forward to seeing you Monday night, February 26 from 5:00-7:30 p.m.!

PAULDING FFA AGRICULTURE SALES TEAM IS STATE BOUND



Pictured here is the Ag Sales team who placed 2nd in the district and has qualified for the state contest. Left to right: Sam Reinhard, Jamy Hunt, Xander Bartley and Addy Hunt.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Agriculture Sales team competed at the district contest on Thursday, February 8th at Carey High School. The team consisted of Sam Reinhard, Jamy Hunt, Xander Bartley, and Addy Hunt. In this contest, team members are asked to sell an agricultural product to a potential buyer. They have to give a ten-minute presentation

about their product to their buyer and close the deal by asking the buyer if they want to purchase the product. This year the team sold different types of trailers after getting a certain scenario about a company. The team placed 2nd overall with Addy Hunt placing 6th individually. This qualified them for the state competition in March! The Paulding FFA Chapter is very proud of this team and wishes them good luck at state!

JOIN KIWANIS CLUB OF PAULDING COUNTY FOR AN INFORMATIVE LUNCHEON



By: Erica Noggle

The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County cordially invites the community to join them for an engaging luncheon event on Thursday, April 4th, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at Branch Christian Fellowship located at 109 N. Main St., Paulding, OH 45879.

Attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy a catered meal provided by Grant's Catering while learning more about the mission and impact of Kiwanis. The event will feature a presentation on the history of Kiwanis and the club's ongoing involvement and contributions to the Paulding County community.

Kiwanis is dedicated to serving children and communities through various service projects and initiatives. This event offers a prime opportunity for individuals to discover how they can make a meaningful difference in their

community by joining Kiwanis and becoming involved in its efforts.

"We are excited to welcome members of the community to this special event," said Erica Noggle, President of the Kiwanis Club of Paulding County. "It's a chance for individuals to learn more about Kiwanis and how they can actively contribute to the betterment of our community."

The event is open to all interested individuals, whether they are familiar with Kiwanis or are learning about it for the first time. Attendees are encouraged to RSVP by March 25th to ensure adequate seating and catering arrangements. You can RSVP at <http://bit.ly/3SAUFQ7>.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow community members, enjoy a delicious meal, and discover the impactful work of Kiwanis.

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, con-

tent and worthiness. email: info@westbendnews.net fax: 419-258-1313 USPS: West Bend News PO Box 1008 Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

GREEN NEW DEAL NIGHTMARE

Don't fall for Democrats "Green New Deal." It is plain destructive to you and America. It is so 'germ-infested' that America will never recover from the ills it brings. Your communist loving representatives don't want you knowing how their Green New Deal will control every aspect of your life from now on. I think they've been using a cracked crystal ball.

First, it adds a huge number of government employees at a wage 50% higher than what the average American gets. This will cause you

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding, Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill, VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)

Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)

Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)

Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

to pay much higher taxes with you getting nothing in return.

Their "Green New Deal" promises Medicare for all guaranteed jobs for all Americans and \$15 per hour minimum wage. That kind of promise can only come from a stupid dreamer, an idiot radical socialist or a communist sick mind. It won't work and doesn't belong in America. Your government will own you like in Russia, China, Iran and North Korea. I also believe it could come from one like Obama.

What will happen when these Democrat idiots declare their 9-10 million illegals to be America citizens? There goes Medicare, Social Security and total future. Everybody just lost all hope. You just became a 'third world' people.

Right now Biden and comrades are treating their illegals better than many of our own citizens. What happens when they stop giving them all these free-bees, or Heaven forbid, declare them American citizens? Civil War maybe? No matter what they do, it will be 'hell' for all Americans and probably the whole world.

I believe Biden is sick and doesn't realize he is helping destroy the greatest nation on earth. I can't say that about any of those guiding or supporting him. I believe each one of them is a direct warrior belonging to Satan. I won't mention any names because you have seen them here before.

A huge number of you need to start thinking for yourselves rather than allowing your anti-God commu-

nist loving Democrat leaders and their major media losers doing for you. Dig into every proposal presented because they will never tell you the full truth behind anything.

If this gets passed, I see your communist loving Democrats 'hot footing' it to side with the communist driven UN. That would mean instant death to America. We would then come under Satan's goose stepping warriors.

I believe Biden probably sold out to the Chinese communist party years ago. I understand that he and other family members got their many millions from CCP. It sure wasn't from working.

I also believe Biden and his Democrat party leaders in Congress are being pushed and guided by that anti-God, anti-free America, Muslim Obama. In my book, neither of these amount to a hill of beans. One is sick and one is like a rattle snake.

We have been kept in the dark way too long. Democrats have used since 1950 just waiting for this day. That's when they started removing God, prayer, Bibles, morality and more from our youth. Obama declared us a 'non-Christian nation.' They wanted America to turn our schools into a 'laughing stock' and not as smart as those before.

Americans had better wake up and smarten up in a hurry because if we lose our nation to these ruthless Democrats in this upcoming 2024 election, you will never recover from the hell that will control your every move.

—Richard Mastin
Hicksville, OH

ANTWERP WRESTLING CLUB COMPETES AT AYERSVILLE

The Antwerp Wrestling Club recently competed in the Curt Florence Invitational at Ayersville High School on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Of the 18 wrestlers competing in the toughest tournament so far, 10 of them were able to place in the top 4 of their respective weight classes.

Finishing 4th on the day were Rylee Slattman and Cooper Nestleroad. Earning very hard fought 3rd place finishes were Olivia Kosch, Jameson Graham, and Emma White.

Placing 2nd for the tournament were Carl Kosch, Benson Slattman, Brody Adams, Oliver McCague, and Mary Adams. Congratulations to all of the young Archers for their toughness this past weekend.

Good luck and GO ARCHERS!!

WARRIORS PULL AWAY FOR WIN OVER RAIDERS

Visiting Woodlan broke open a close game with a 40-point second half as the Warriors pulled away from host Southern Wells for a 66-44 victory over the Raiders Friday night in ACAC boys basketball action.

The visiting Warriors held a 14-6 lead at the end of eight minutes of action but Southern Wells trimmed the deficit to 26-23 at the midway point of the contest.

However, Woodlan outscored the Raiders 18-12 in the third quarter to widen the gap to 44-35 entering the

final quarter. The Warriors then dominated the fourth period with a 22-point stanza to put away the victory.

Trey Yoder scored 18 second half points on his way to a game high total of 27 markers to lead the Warriors to the victory.

Braden Smith added 18 points for Woodlan followed by Oliver Adams (eight), Mason Moore (five), Luke Meyer (four), Lincoln Sparks (two) and Jayse Kuntz (two).

Chandler Oswalt had 21 points to top Southern Wells and Evan Pennington bucketed six markers.

C.J. Reber (five), Perrin Gates (four), Caleb Johnson (three), Andrew Aker (three) and Joshua Auibach (two) completed the scoring for the Raiders.

LADY ACES SOAR PAST EAGLES

Visiting Hicksville limited host North Central to six points over the first three quarters as the Lady Aces soared to a 41-18 win over the Eagles Tuesday night in non-conference girls basketball play.

Hicksville blanked the Eagles in the first quarter while opening an 11-0 lead and the Defiance County squad was never threatened.

The Lady Aces expanded the margin to 23-6 at the midway point of the contest before pushing the lead to 32-6 at the end of three periods.

North Central was paced by Madeline Zimmerman with five markers and Malory Groves posted four points.

Mireya Cruz chipped in three points while Addyson Turner, Grecia Dominguez and Addie Burger all had two markers.

Kennedy Adams and McKenna Baird each reached double figures for Hicksville with Adams posting 13 points and Baird chipping in a dozen markers.

Adelynn Radford and Evy McAlexander both posted four points for the Lady Aces with Hayden Neidhardt, Ashlynn Steury, McKenna Rice and Alex Kenner picking up two markers apiece.

HOW WILL HIGHER RATES AFFECT YOU?

As you know, interest rates have risen considerably over the past couple of years. But what does this mean to you, as a consumer and as an investor?

From a consumer's standpoint, it's not hard to see the effects of higher interest rates. If you want to take out a mortgage or refinance an existing one, you'll find that it's considerably more costly, in terms of the interest you'll pay, than it was a few years ago. And the same is true of car loans and credit cards. Paying these debts at higher rates can affect your cash flow, so while rates are high, you may need to make some important decisions about your overall budget and spending plans.

As an investor, though, you may find the effects of higher interest rates to be somewhat more complex. That's because higher rates can have a different impact on different types of investments, such as stocks and bonds.

When considering stocks, be aware that not all market sectors will respond the same way to higher interest rates. For example, the financial sector, which includes banks, insurance companies and brokerage firms, may benefit from higher rates. On the other hand, smaller technology companies, which still must invest heavily in their businesses, may not do as well due to rising interest rates making it more expensive for them to borrow. And other sectors will respond differently to higher rates. Keep in mind, though, that there's great variance within sectors and among companies, so when you consider purchasing stocks, evaluate each choice on its merits and make sure it fits within your risk tolerance, time horizon and need for portfolio diversification. When you diversify your investment dollars, you can reduce the risk of market volatility affecting just one type of asset, although diver-

sification by itself can't protect against all losses.

With fixed-income investments, such as bonds, interest rate movements can have significant and direct impacts. When interest rates rise, the value of your current bonds will likely fall because new bonds can pay higher rates. However, you can also buy bonds at the new, higher rates and benefit from bigger interest payments.

Still, there's no guarantee that interest rates will stay elevated - in fact, the Federal Reserve has indicated that it might actually start cutting rates in 2024 - which is why it may be a good idea to build what's known as a "ladder" consisting of short-, intermediate- and long-term bonds. Once you have your ladder in place, you'll have some protection from interest-rate movements. So, if rates were to keep rising, you could reinvest the proceeds of your short-term bonds in the new, higher-paying ones. But if rates level off, or even fall, you'll still benefit from your longer-term bonds, which typically (but not always) pay higher rates than short-term ones.

Of course, if you hold your bonds until maturity, you will continue to get the same interest payments, regardless of where market rates go.

In any case, it's useful to be aware of what's happening with interest rates - the more you know about the factors affecting your investments, the better off you'll be.

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



Member SIPC



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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Pharmacy, H20, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Family Dollar, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Antwerp Manor, Library, Genesis House, G-Mart, Ties & Bows, Small Town Bliss

Bryan: Chief, Town&Country, Walmart, Bryan Hospital, CVS, 4 Seasons, Dollar General

Cecil: 127 Maramart

Continental: Okuley's Pharmacy, Dollar General, ACE Hardware

Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carry Out, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General, Senior Center, Walmart, Cabbage Patch, Advanced Auto, Main Stop Marathon, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library

Edgerton: Kaiser Super market, USPS, Utilities Dept., H&W Napa, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)

Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library

Hicksville: Sailors, Hickory Creek Nursing Home, Shell Station, Marathon E High St, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Citgo

Ney: Marathon

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

Paulding: Stykemain, Chief, Corner Market, Integrity Ford, Holly, Wood & Vine, Napa Do It Best, Maramart, Dollar General, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware, Gorrell Bros., Albert Automotive, Paulding Courthouse, Paulding VFW Post 587, Paulding Co. Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Paulding, Paulding County Hospital, Kwik Mart, PC

Carnegie Library

Payne: Village office, Panchos, Vancrest of Payne, Dollar General, Lichy's Barber Shop, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Puckerbrush

Sherwood: Post Office, Village Food Emporium, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library

Scott: Scott Post Office

Van Wert: CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Family Video, Orchard Tree

INDIANA LOCATIONS

Fort Wayne: Hahn Systems, Walmart, Walgreens, Great Clips & Goodwill (Maysville Rd.), Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living

Grabill: Save-A-Lot, Grabill Hardware, Grabill Country Sales

Harlan: Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank

Hoagland: Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

Monroeville: Mel's Deli, Phillips 66, Village of Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General

New Haven: ACP Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, McDonalds, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Old City Hall, Richard's

Woodburn: Clip-N-Tan, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress, Country Oasis, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, S&V Liquors, Post Office, Dollar General, Phoenix Manor, Chop Shop, ACP Library, Willies Cafe II

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RAIDERS WIN BIG OVER APACHES



Fairview Junior Lucas Bonar is heavily guarded by Wayne Trace's Tyson Gerber, and still makes the basket for two Apache points! More pictures at westbendnews.net



Wayne Trace Senior Caleb Mosier blocks Apache's William Zeedyk shot but is called for the foul! More pictures at westbendnews.net

With tonight's victory over Fairview, Wayne Trace clinched a share of the 32nd Green Meadows Conference championship in school history.

Score by Quarters:
 Fairview - 13 12 9 8 = 42
 WT - 18 13 20 24 = 75

Fairview Scoring:
 Salyers 1-4-1-15; Zeedyk 2-0-0-4; Kauffman 0-0-0-0; Panico 0-2-2-8; J Shininger 0-0-1-1; N Shininger 1-0-2-4; Bonar 2-0-0-4; Brady 1-0-2-4; Boland 1-0-0-2; Arend 0-0-0-0; Williams 0-0-0-0

Wayne Trace Scoring:
 Wayne Trace 6
 Assists - Fairview 10,
 Wayne Trace 12 (Miller 3, K. Stoller 3)
 Steals - Fairview 4, Wayne Trace 12 (K. Stoller 4, Myers 3)
 Junior Varsity - Wayne Trace 38, Fairview 12

Myers 3-0-2-8; Laukhuf 6-0-8-20; Miller 0-1-0-3; Sinn 0-0-0-0; Gerber 0-1-0-3; Winans 3-0-0-6; Clemens 1-0-0-2; Mosier 2-0-0-4; Maenle 0-0-2-2; K Stoller 11-1-2-27; Z Stoller 0-0-0-0

Rebounds - Fairview 22 (Brady 5); Wayne Trace 33 (K. Stoller 11, Sinn 5)

Turnovers - Fairview 15,

LADY RAIDERS TOP SCOREBOARD IN COUNTY RIVAL MATCH



Paulding sophomore Kayleigh Dunham sneaks around Harper Myers to score two points for the Panthers in this final GMC battle! More pictures at westbendnews.net



Sophomore Lexi Moore is fouled on the shot and scores this and the point after! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Lady Raiders traveled to The Jungle to battle at The Jungle in the county rival match up on Thursday, February 15th.

Score by Quarters:
 WT - 12 12 9 8 = 41
 Paulding - 12 9 7 9 = 37

Wayne Trace Scoring:
 Sinn 0-0-1-1; Myers 2-0-1-5; Careen Winans 2-0-4-8; Moore 4-0-3-11; Caroline Winans 4-0-5-13; Stoller 0-1-0-3

Paulding Scoring:
 Manz 2-0-2-6; A Pease 2-0-0-4; Bakle 1-2-2-10; T Schlatter 1-0-0-2; Pease 1-0-0-2; B Schlatter 1-0-3-5; Breier 2-0-0-4; Dunham 2-0-0-4

Rebounds - Wayne Trace 37 (Moore 13, Myers 7); Paulding 21 (Dunham 6, T. Schlatter 5)

Turnovers - Wayne Trace 23, Paulding 17

Junior Varsity - Paulding 27, Wayne Trace 20

THIRD QUARTER LIFTS TINORA OVER PAULDING



The name you hear a lot at the Jungle is Blake Rhonehouse who is scoring this 3-point shot for the Panthers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

In three of the four quarters, the Paulding Lady Panthers played host Tinora even.

However, a big third quarter by the Lady Rams proved to be the difference in a 52-40 victory for the Defiance County squad Thursday night in Green Meadows Conference girls basketball play.

Tinora held a 19-11 lead at the end of eight minutes of action but it was the Panthers that controlled the second stanza.

The maroon and white picked up a dozen markers in the period while holding the Rams to four, tying the contest at 23-23 at the midway point.

Tinora, though, dominated the third period with an 18-point stanza and the Rams kept Paulding to six as the green and white recorded a 41-29 advantage entering the final quarter.

Both teams scored 11 points in the fourth period to set up the 52-40 Tinora victory.

Nova Okuley led the way for the green and white with 19 points while Addison Lee added 16 markers and Eowyn Blanchard reached double digits with ten points.

Karli Okuley and Julia Durfei both posted three points for Tinora with Emma Bailey recording one point for Tinora, which improved to 12-8 in all games on the season and 4-2 in the conference.

The Lady Panthers were led by Addison Pease with 11 points and Brooklyn Bakle chipped in seven markers.

Tori Schlatter (five), Estie Pease (five), Brooklyn Schlatter (five) and Lucy Breier (two) completed the scoring for Paulding, which falls to 8-11 overall and 2-4 in the league.

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WARRIORS DEFEND HOME COURT FROM BLAZERS



5'11" junior Jayse Kuntz is left open for the 3 point shot and scores for the Warriors! Woodlan played Eastside on February 13th. Final score of the evening held a home court win for the Warriors: 69-38 More pictures at westbendnews.net

LADY RAIDERS HOLD OFF THE KNIGHTS



Raider Senior Ava Zartman is two for two in this first minute technical foul shot getting the home team off to a good start against the Lady Knights! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Wayne Trace Lady Raiders played host to the Crestview Knights on Monday, February 12th. In this low scoring close match up, both teams were bringing their "A" game. At the final buzzer the Raiders tallied another win to their record: 43-35

line Winans 1-0-1-3; Stoller 0-1-0-3

Rebounds - Crestview 23 (C. Gregory 5); Wayne Trace 28 (Moore 10, Myers 7)

Turnovers - Crestview 7, Wayne Trace 14

Junior Varsity - Crestview 22, Wayne Trace 17 (3-OT)

BIG SECOND STANZA LIFTS ARCHER TO ROUT OF EDON

Antwerp went on the road Saturday night where the Archers used a dominating second quarter to pull away for a 68-35 rout of host Edon in non-league boys basketball action. The Archers held a com-

fortable 20-11 lead at the end of eight minutes of action but turned things up in the second stanza.

Antwerp put up 27 points in the second quarter while limiting the Bombers to 11 as the Paulding County squad recorded a commanding 47-22 lead entering the third quarter.

In the third quarter, the Archers added 16 points and kept Edon to four as Antwerp took a 63-26 advantage into the final period.

Landon Brewer led the way for Antwerp with 24 points in the contest with teammate Carson Altimus posting 20 markers.

Zaine McMichael (six), Ben Savina (five), Reid Lichty (four), Camden Fuller (three), Tavin Sholl (three) and Aiden Lichty (three) completed the scoring for the Archers.

Corbin Chrisman and Grant Reed topped Edon with eight points apiece and Briggs Gallehue chipped in five markers.

Cohen Hulbert (four), Peyton Trausch (three), Christian Owens (three), Max Radabaugh (two) and Martin Gonzalez Ariza (two) were the other scorers for the Williams County squad.

ANTWERP WHIPS ACES FOR 17th VICTORY

Antwerp scored at least points in each of the first two quarters and the Archers rolled over host Hicksville for a 65-26 win Friday night in Green Meadows Conference boys basketball action.

The blue and white seized control of the contest from the opening tip, grabbing a 20-6 lead at the end of eight minutes of action.

Antwerp then added even more in the second stanza, pouring in 23 points while limiting the Aces to six as the Archers posted a commanding 43-12 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, the visitors expanded the margin even further with a 13-point quarter while Hicksville picked up seven to make it 56-19 entering the final stanza.

Landon Brewer paced the Archers with a 23-point effort while Zaine McMichael added 17 markers for the

TWO RAIDER WRESTLERS EARN 100th WIN



Senior Graiden Troth and Junior Corbin Kimmel both earned their 100th wins at the Triad Duals on February 10th. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Wayne Trace Wrestling traveled to North Lewisburg to compete in the Triad Duals on February 10th to face six other schools in the competition. While there, junior Corbin Kimmel and senior Graiden Troth each earned their 100th career win. Corbin and Graiden both had a perfect day on the mats, winning all six of their matches respectively.

Corbin Kimmel dominated the 126-pound weight class and competed strong throughout the day. In the first round, Kimmel defeated Bethel's Sabir Ismailov by tech fall in 2:59. Kimmel then defeated Wyatt Smith of Triad with a final score of 14-5. Xenia's Jayse Clark was then pinned by Kimmel in 3:35. It was at the third win of the day that Corbin Kimmel won his 100th career match and was presented a banner by his teammates. Corbin then pinned North Union's Braylen Riffle in just 46 seconds. After a forfeit win against Northwestern (Springfield), Kimmel pinned Lance Saylor of West Liberty-Salem in 32 seconds.

Graiden Troth wrestled as the 144-pounder for the Raider Wrestling Team. In the first round, Troth pinned Ramil Juffa of Bethel in 1:04. For the second round against Triad, Graiden pinned Blayk Thomas in 5:07. Troth made quick work and a quick pin



Corbin Kimmel wrestling opponent at Triads. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

over Xenia's Michael Combs with a pin in 1:14 and then another pin in the fourth round over Zayne Leiter of North Union in 1:19. Northwestern wrestler Matthew Glispie was quickly pinned by Troth in just 34 seconds. In the sixth and final round of the day, Troth pinned Slayde Merriman of West Liberty-Salem in 5:23 and earned his 100th career win. Troth was presented his banner by his teammates at the end of his match.

Other wrestlers competing on the seven-man team included 113-pound Colton Kimmel with a record of 4-2 for the day. Colton's wins were

comprised of 3 pins and a forfeit. Kamryn Sutton, the 132-pounder, completed the day with a record of 3-3. Nate Osborne, the 190-pound wrestler ended the day with a record of 4-2. Of the four wins, Osborn had 2 pins. Dakota Densmore wrestled in the 215-pound weight class and was unable to secure a win. Blake Schultz rounded out the Raider Wrestlers with a record of 5-1, with one pin.

The Raiders compete next at the Green Meadows Conference on February 17th. Good luck to the Raider Wrestlers as they continue in their season.

blue and white.

Tavin Sholl and Reid Lichty each bucketed seven points for Antwerp followed by Carson Altimus (five), Ben Savina (four) and Braylen Moreno (two).

The Aces were led by five

points each from Garrett Turnbull and Austin Sanders with Owen Stuckey recording four markers.

Brant Langham, Bronson Graber, Luke Eicher, Brayden Slattery, Braxtyn Heisler and Jayden Castillo all chipped in two points apiece for the Aces.

Antwerp improves to 17-2 overall on the season and 5-1 in the Green Meadows Conference with the victory

while Hicksville falls to 3-16 in all games and 0-6 in the conference.

Hicksville did record the victory in the junior varsity contest as the Aces defeated the Archers 32-28.

Call or Email your classified ad today!
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PAULDING WRESTLERS PIN WIN IN HOME DUALS



Panther wrestler Miguel Martinez of the 195lb weight class clashes with his Hicksville opponent. Photo by Lions Eye Photography

Thursday, February 8th, Paulding Panthers hosted a wrestling duals match with Hicksville and Fairview. The Panthers defend the home mats well beating both the Aces and Apaches. They fin-

ished their dual season, 18-5.

Top Panther wrestlers of the Night:

Nico Moreno 2-0; Landon Dasher 2-0; Stroker Etter 2-0; Jesse Shaffer 2-0; Avery Cooper 2-0; Kobe Foor 2-0

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

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OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY 100 DAYS OF SCHOOL



The entire first grade is shown. The students are in Mrs. Caroline Arend and Mrs. Jen Miller's classes.



Back above are first graders Hudson Brown (back) with Braelynn Long and Aviana Landwehr in costume.

Oakwood Elementary The first grade students students enjoyed celebrating the 100th day of school in various ways. The first grade students were asked to dress up as though they were 100 years old.

EXPLORE HEALTH CAREERS AT DOCTOR'S DAY



The 29th annual Doctor's Day, a Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance event, returns to Science Central on Saturday, March 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Doctor's Day is a hands-on health career fair for children. The event is highlighted by free admission to

Science Central for all visitors. Complimentary admissions can be claimed on Science Central's website or at the center's admissions desk. Science Central will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Doctor's Day will feature a variety of exciting experiences for visitors. There will be opportunities to touch medical specimens, along with a chance to observe a cow eye dissection. Medical and wellness demonstrations will be held throughout the day and visitors will be able to ask questions at "The Doctor Is In" booth. There will also be giveaways for visitors to look forward to throughout the event.

Event sponsors include Fort Wayne Medical Society, Indiana University Health, Lutheran Health Network, and Parkview Health.

OHSAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVES EXPANSION PROPOSAL

COLUMBUS, Ohio - After months of discussion and meetings around Ohio to gather feedback, the Ohio High School Athletic Association Board of Directors unanimously approved a proposal Thursday morning to utilize a new formula to determine how many divisions will be offered for postseason tournaments. The change affects OHSAA General Sports Regulation 17 and will result in girls and boys soccer now having five divisions, while girls volleyball, girls and boys basketball, softball and baseball will all have seven divisions. In those sports, Division I and Division II will only include 64 schools.

The new divisions will go into effect in the fall of 2024. The board will continue to discuss additional sports, noting several recent meetings regarding track and field. There are no changes to the number of football divisions, which is already at seven. In addition, any changes to the current deployment of the Competitive Balance process would need to be voted upon by OHSAA member schools during the annual referendum voting process.

Doug Ute, OHSAA Executive Director, praised the board's decision as a step toward to level the playing field of OHSAA tournaments.

"It's the right thing to do for the student-athletes who have been competing at this disadvantage," said Ute. "For too long, the largest schools in our divisions have been so much larger than the smaller schools in the same division, which has resulted in many schools accepting that they realistically have little chance at making a run in the tournament. In some of our sports, there have been more than 200 schools com-

peting for a state title in that division, which is significantly more than what most other states do, and what we do in many of our own sports.

"We know that there is a lot of work to do in the coming months to prepare for additional divisions this fall," Ute said. "We have already started working on the details to accomplish this, but one thing we know for sure is that having two or three more state champions in these sports doesn't water them down or diminish winning a state title. And we anticipate that this new format will be revenue neutral, since every school makes the tournament already."

Each year, the Board of Directors would still have final authority in determining how many divisions to be used that school year, but the proposal calls for the following scale to be used to guide the board's decision on the number of divisions for girls volleyball, football, soccer, basketball, softball and baseball, however note that the sports of lacrosse, field hockey, ice hockey and boys volleyball would not change from their current division numbers:

- 199 or fewer teams: 1 Division
- 200 to 299 teams: 2 Divisions
- 300 to 399 teams: 3 Divisions
- 400 to 499 teams: 4 Divisions
- 500 to 599 teams: 5 Divisions
- 600 to 699 teams: 6 Divisions
- 700 and more teams: 7 Divisions

For girls volleyball, soccer, basketball, softball and baseball, the largest 64 schools would be placed into Division I. The next largest 64 schools would be placed into Division II. The remaining schools would be divided as evenly as possible into the remaining divisions. The OHSAA already does something similar to this in football, in which the largest 10 percent of schools are placed into Division I and the remaining schools are divided evenly in Divisions II through VII.

The proposal does not call for a change to the formula that the OHSAA uses for individual sports to determine the number of student-athletes required for team designation, which includes five in bowling, five in cross country (who score for their team at the district tournament), four in golf, three in girls gymnastics, seven in swimming and diving, four in tennis, nine in track and field and seven in wrestling.

The proposal calls for the following number of divisions to be used for individual sports:

- 200 or fewer teams: 1 Division
- 201 to 450 teams: 2 Divisions
- 451 to 700 teams: 3 Divisions
- 701 and more teams: 4 Divisions

OHSAA member schools vote to determine any changes to the bylaws or constitution via the referendum process each spring. Member schools also vote for representatives for their District Athletic Boards, who are then selected to serve on the State Board of

NEW HAVEN WRESTLERS AT SEMI STATE



New Haven had 4 wrestlers heading to State this past weekend in Evansville: 106 - Juliana Ocampo, 2nd; 113 - Karrington Cooper, 3rd; 144 - Easton Doster, 1st; 150 - Adien Elkins 1st. Photo by Melissa Amstutz

CREDIT UNION EMPLOYEES ACHIEVE PERFECT BALANCING RECORD FOR 2023



Financial Partners Federal Credit Union is pleased to announce that two of its employees achieved a perfect balancing record in 2023. Tara Till, a teller at our Grabill Office, and Casey Schlatter, our Head Teller at our Grabill Office, were provided with their awards by CEO, Dave Shuey on February 5, 2024. To receive this award tellers must not have any errors in balancing for an entire calendar year. We are very proud of the work of these very valued staff members and congratulate them on this tremendous accomplishment.

Financial Partners FCU is a \$55-million asset credit union located in Northeast Allen County with branches in Woodburn (260-632-4245) and Grabill (260-627-2111). It serves residents in Adams, Allen, and DeKalb Counties. For more information on the services Financial Partners FCU provides please call either office or visit our website at "http://www.financialpartnersfcu.org" www.financialpartnersfcu.org.

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REVOLUTIONARY WAR GARRISON



those who lived during the Revolutionary War.

No event at The Old Fort would be complete without its Bake Sale. Visitors can indulge in a variety of homemade baked treats. There is also Old Fort themed merchandise and six new replica map posters, for those looking to take a piece of history home with them.

Immersive and Interactive
The historic ambience of The Old Fort provides the perfect backdrop for this event. Visitors can explore the buildings of the fort and interact with soldiers, civilians, and artisans.

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

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

Imagine living in a frontier fort during the long winter months! "The Revolutionary War Garrison", scheduled for March 2, 2024, at The Old Fort on Spy Run Avenue will showcase the daily lives of Continental soldiers and militia reenactors during the last month of a long winter.

Hosted by Historic Fort Wayne, Inc., a nonprofit organization, this event offers visitors a glimpse into the lives of those who lived during the Revolutionary War.

Imagine walking into the barracks of The Old Fort and finding yourself amid Continental soldiers. This event aims to recreate scenarios allowing visitors to engage in history in a way that is both educational and entertaining. Reenactors in period uniforms and clothes will provide a rare insight into the lives of

delible mark on NASA and the world.

Nicely is a Defiance resident and an award-winning journalist who has reported on a wide range of topics in Ohio for decades. She is a graduate of Kent State University's School of Journalism and Mass Communications.

Hinsch is a Perrysburg-based artist who was one of three selected to paint Ohio's astronauts for the Statehouse Rotunda in Columbus. His work can be found in many prestigious locations, including the Pentagon and Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

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

Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St. Defiance, OH 43512. ph. 419-782-1456. fax. 419-782-6235

Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W High St., Hicksville, OH 43526. ph. 419-542-6200. fax. 419-542-1015

Sherwood Branch Library, 117 N Harrison, Sherwood, OH 43556. ph. 419-899-4343. fax. 419-899-3479

www.defiancelibrary.org

ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD MEETS TO DISCUSS UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS

The February Antwerp School Board meeting took place on February 13 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting began with Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller announcing the guests at the meeting. President Sara Schuette asked for an approval of the minutes of the previous board meeting. Bob Herber as the state liaison said there was nothing new. Dennis Recker said Vantage Open House is scheduled for February 26, 2024. It's aimed for sophomore parents, but others are welcome to attend as well. Vantage is hosting the state skills and regional skills competition this year in April.

Kristine Stuart presented the financial report for the month of January:

income: \$1,141,687.80

expenses: \$1,126,724.10

net: \$39,377.39

The school system is 58% through the fiscal year; 57% projected income received, and 48% projected budgeted amount spent.

HS Principal, Travis Lichty, stated that next year's seniors have been asked if they are interested in working with school partners where they can work as a school credit. He said there are eight students that have shown interest. The Safe Students Act (HB 288) that the school will do safety awareness and suicide prevention. Training has been done with grades 6-12. Winter Spirit week is going on now. The dance was on Saturday. The sophomores are taking the ASVAB the week of February 19. Winter Athletics Post Season begins this next week. The Spring Musical is mid-March with seniors leaving that week for the class trip. A sewing class is being presented by Mrs. Sorrell, picking up life-skills. Blood Drive is coming up and is scheduled for March 27 which is open to the public.

Elementary Principal Stokes said PTO is hosting Family Literacy Night is March 14, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Kindergarten screening is March 3, 4, 5. Kindergarten class will not be going that day. 40 are already signed up for the kindergarten screening. The school can serve up to 60 students.

WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Wayne Trace Grover Hill Student of the Month: Front L-R: Emmy Sinn, Lane Noffsinger, Izzy Hicks, Zoey Adkins, Tatum Treece, Jose Proctor and Seth Hurd. Back: Morgan Silance Emma Kremer, Sophie Kessler, Skyler Goins, Carter Noffsinger and Kolson Stoller.

Dr. Miller said that teachers, Lynette Vail and Emily Tempel, are retiring at the end of this year. Second to third grades are 39 kids moving. There will be a shift for a teacher to move also.

The Range is progressing. Insulation, walls and ceiling are being worked on now. March 6 the inside is scheduled to be finished. An interactive projector will be built in. Painting should be happening next week. The open house will be coming up, but has not been scheduled. Mr. Lichty asked, "if the inside is done but the outside is not, can it still be used?" Dr. Miller answered, "yes".

Schweller Electric has been running some emergency wiring system that needed to be expanded from the original construction 20 years ago. Harold Gottke is also getting ready to "spoo" teachers and staff for training. 2nd grade testing will be starting this week. April 8 will be the next Inservice Day and it will be all day and it will be for AI expectations. The Health Fair is April 10. Harold and Marty attended an FBI session on swatting.

Kristine and Marty will be traveling to San Diego for training and Marty will be giving a presentation.

There was an executive session at the end of the regular meeting.

CECIL VILLAGE OFFICIALS

Below is a listing of the Cecil Village officials for village residents.

Mayor - Mr. Gene Sheets
505 N. Main St., P.O. Box 26, Cecil, Ohio 45821; Phone 419-399-4923; gsheets@windstream.net; Term 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2025 (E)

Clerk/Treasurer - Carlene A. Turner, 205 S. Main St., Cecil, OH 45821; Phone 419-399-0520 - Cell; carly-sue59@yahoo.com; Term 04/01/2020 to 03/31/2024 (A)

OPEN COUNCIL SEAT - Term 01/01/2020 to 12/31/2023 (A)

OPEN COUNCIL SEAT #2

Councilpersons:
Walter Lang - 102 N Main St., PO Box 75, Cecil, OH 45821, Phone 419-258-0032, wlang@kent.edu; Term 1/1/2024 TO 12/31/2027 (A)
Mrs. Maxine Keegan - 17011 Rd 105, Cecil, OH 45821; Phone 419-399-2733;

(Continued on Page 11)

WAYNE DALE CELEBRATES 103 YEARS!



For some, Waynedale is a place where they live, for others, it's a place to work. However, most people you ask who know the community will say it's definitely a very special place to be, not like any other part of Fort Wayne. And, its a unique oddity that when you ask someone from here where you live, it's always "Waynedale" and not Fort Wayne, like those in other communities might respond. As we celebrate the area's 103rd Anniversary, it's a great time to look around and truly appreciate the many people, organizations, and businesses that make the community absolutely wonderful!

Nestled outside the "big city" of Fort Wayne, Waynedale was once an unincorporated town founded in 1921 by Abner Elzey. Since then, it was absorbed into Fort

Wayne's growing infrastructure. Interestingly, the most unique thing about the community is that it has still maintained the "Waynedale" name 65 years after the town was annexed into Fort Wayne in 1957.

Naming the community was difficult. At first, Elzey had intended to name the community after his only daughter, Ilo, but this idea was dropped. And since those living in this area spoke of Fort Wayne as "Wayne," he chose that as part of the name, using the name of his son "Dale" as the other.

As the community has grown outside its humble beginnings, its boundaries have begun to blur, but most would say that "you will know it when you're there." Many would attribute the stronghold in community identity

OHIO'S ASTRONAUTS HIGHLIGHTED IN NICELY, HINSCH'S NEW BOOK



Author Lisa Nicely



Illustrator Bill Hinsch

March 7 from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. The presentations are free and open to all; no registration is needed.

The recently released book takes readers on an awe-inspiring journey through the lives and legacies of some of Ohio's most intrepid space explorers. From John Glenn's historic orbit around the Earth, to the contemporary heroes pushing the boundaries of space travel, the book celebrates 26 Buckeye-state astronauts whose stellar achievements have left an in-

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JUDGE BECKMAN SPEAKS AT KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Judge Tiffany Beckman (Paulding County Court of Common Pleas) as the guest speaker at the February 15, 2024, club meeting. Judge Beckman came at the invitation of Elecia Wobler (Owner, Keepsake Beads by EAW & Boutique). Judge Beckman spoke to the Kiwanians about the Paulding County Drug Court and how that program works.

found nowhere else in Fort Wayne as a testament to the many great things that the community holds and represents. Waynedale is in its people, its businesses, and the many things there are to do here.

It's often said that you can find everything you need without leaving the community. Once a farming town, Waynedale is also uniquely still host to many family-owned businesses that have stood the test of time and continue to offer great service and products today. It's endearing that the tradition of supporting local businesses is still strong here.

Throughout time, the newspaper has also helped strengthen and maintain Waynedale's community identity. The first edition of The Waynedale News came out on September 2, 1932. Arden McCoy was the editor, and the paper consisted of a single sheet measuring 15 by 10 inches. Noble's Home Store was the main advertiser, listing Hershey Cocoa at one pound for .17 cents and Cammay Toilet Soap at .05 cents per bar. Potatoes were 7.5 cents a peck and .25 cents per bushel.

Hand-in-hand passionate community members, the newspaper and local businesses still continue the tradition of celebrating, promoting and bringing together the community through its news, events for community members to enjoy, and projects like

the weather siren to keep those in the community safe.

It is simply wonderful that the Waynedale community has been adorned with so many passionate people who not only want to help create a better place to live and work but also thrive.

As we look into the future, the community continues to have a bright outlook. With industry growing southwest of Waynedale, there are more and more jobs available for people who can live close by in our community. As entertainment venues like Electric Works and the Clyde continue to develop, there will be even more things to enjoy. And the City of Fort Wayne's recent emphasis on growing south-side businesses will also help to bring more opportunities to those in the Waynedale area.

On such a monumental occasion, Waynedale's 103rd Anniversary is not only a time to appreciate, but a time to celebrate what we have. On behalf of the Waynedale News, I would like to take a moment to thank the many people who make Waynedale great! Whether you're a neighbor, business owner, or simply a passionate community member, your selfless hard work is being noticed and it is appreciated every day that everyone else is able to enjoy it. It takes everyone working together to make it happen, and we are so proud and thankful for our community!

Julie McCloud - 17240 Rd. 105, Cecil, Ohio 45821; Phone 419-399-4139; J_dmaris@yahoo.com; Term 01/01/22 to 12/31/25 (A)

Solicitor - Cam Stanley -

(Continued from Page 10)
villageofcecil@yahoo.com;
Term 01/01/22 to 12/31/25 (A)
Council President - Mrs.

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

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Village Administrator - OPEN

EXPLAINING THE WEATHER

Dr. Aaron Wilson, OSU Climatologist gave a summary of current and future weather conditions. Dr. Wilson explained the difference between weather, which is current day to day events, and climate, which is long-term weather events over time. It's like a man taking a dog for a walk. The dog is all over the place which is like our current weather, changing constantly. However the man is like our climate, he is walking in a certain direction while the dog follows erratically along.

Dr. Wilson reviewed the 2023 past weather conditions and made predictions for the upcoming 2024 year. Overall, 2023 was warmer than normal, about 2-3 degrees above normal. It was the 4th warmest year since 1895 and the 49th driest year, about 4 inches below normal precipitation. Last winter was warm, followed by a cold spring. June was hot and dry but the rest of the year had variable weather that was cooler than normal during the day but with warmer nights.

On rainfall, it was lacking most of the year, but not for everyone. Rainfall was quite variable across the region. Most of Northwest Ohio had drought like conditions, although isolated pockets had excess rain. In the winter of 2023, most of western Ohio had 2.5 inches more rainfall than normal and about 2-3 inches of rain in March. May was cool (cold) and dry followed by a hot dry June with

75% of Ohio experiencing drought like conditions. That means most crops got off to a slow start with much lower growing degree days (GDD's). There were only about 10 summer rainfall events, with a couple of big rain events (August).

That means crops matured slowly. Smoke from Canada accounted for about 9-12% of the slower growth. Most of the slow growth came from North and Northeast winds that brought cooler temperatures and drier air and 3-9% less daily light. Southwest winds generally bring warmer temperatures and moist air. The lower GDD's translated into slower growth and higher moisture in the crop harvested. That slowed down grain harvest. Some areas got some light fall showers, other areas were dry.

For the long-term climate, Dr. Wilson expects to see warmer winters, especially at night. He noted that about 95% of the USA land mass is much warmer over the last 40 years (since 1980's). Ohio is about 10F warmer on average for the whole year since 1980. We may see less extremely hot days, but much warmer nights, especially in the winter and summer. Although we may expect wetter years over to come in the future, we can also expect more droughts in the middle of the summer. Future years may see wet springs, very dry summers, followed by wet fall and winter weather.

In the future, expect more rainfall events over 1 inch with fewer small rainfall events 0.5-1.0 inch rains. Major flood events generally occur with a probability 1 event on average every 100 years. Dr. Wilson expects that probability to increase to 1 in 20 years to possibly a probability of 1 major flood event every 5 years. With the land mass in

the USA warming, expect higher evaporation and higher precipitation. As oceans warm up slightly, that means higher overall precipitations.

Dr. Wilson is predicting more extreme weather events in the next 25 years. If average temperatures increase 3-5 degrees, that could mean 20% higher precipitation (currently 36 inches/year increasing to 43 inches/year). We may see more days above 90 degrees. Wet winters and wet springs followed by dry summers. Irrigation may become much more common but farmers will have to develop strategies for storing the excess water. Dr. Wilson says to expect more pests like weeds, insects, and disease. With less cold freezing temperatures in the winter, more pests survive. On insects, more fall army worm, slugs, and corn earworm. Expect the growing season to be longer with 28 more days of frost-free weather. However, expect to lose 5 days in the spring to get crops planted (too wet) and another 5 days in the fall to crops harvested (too wet).

Currently, the USA is in an El Nino cycle meaning usually hotter and drier summers. The current El Nino maybe waning to be replaced by La Nina events which typically bring in moisture to the Midwest. Overall, Dr. Wilson expects a warmer wetter spring and summer for our area. To combat more rain and warmer or hotter temperatures, conservation practices like no-till and cover crops can keep the soil in place and keep moisture recycling, both in the air, and in the soil for long-term storage. For farmers, the weather and climate is something to always talk about because it effect crop yields.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

LATTA VOTES TO REVERSE BIDEN'S LNG EXPORT BAN

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH5), a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, released the following statement after voting in favor of HR. 7176, the Unlocking Our Domestic LNG Potential Act, which would immediately reverse President

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

Biden's de facto ban on American liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports:

"America must continue to lead in energy production and exportation to secure energy independence and compete globally. The quickest way to kneecap our economy and cut jobs is by banning the export of American liquefied natural gas. The Biden administration's move to do just that will have serious ramifications on America's energy and economic security. Not to mention, this move will force our allies and other nations to depend on foreign adversaries - like Russia - for their energy. That's why, today, I voted to reverse the Biden administration's misguided LNG export ban. I want to thank my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Rep. August Pfluger, for leading this important legislation."

Last week, Latta joined more than 150 House Republicans in sending a letter to President Biden demanding he end the ban on LNG exports. Latta also participated in an Energy and Commerce Committee hearing to examine the Biden administration's LNG export ban and how it threatens America's energy and economic security.

Background on the LNG export ban:

- On January 26, President Biden froze the approval process for new U.S. LNG export sites.

- Studies show that LNG exports could add upwards of \$73 billion to the U.S. economy by 2040, create upwards of 453,000 American jobs, and increase U.S. held purchasing power by \$30 billion.

- Over the past seven years, the U.S. has increased its LNG export capacity from zero to 11.6 billion cubic feet per day. During the same period, the spot price of U.S. natural gas has remained relatively stable and affordable.

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

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VAN WERT'S RECOVERY CLUBHOUSE OPEN HOUSE



Kimberley Cox and Kara Griffiths in front of the new Clubhouse on Main Street in Van Wert.

The Clubhouse of Van Wert held an Open House on Thursday, February 15, 2024 at their Main Street location in Van Wert, Ohio and invited everyone in the community to come in and celebrate their grand opening! They introduced approximately 25 people at this event!

Kimberley Cox, Recovery Navigator, and Kara Griffiths, Case Manager, talked with the West Bend News about the purpose of the Clubhouse. The eye-opening interaction realized the importance of helping people who struggle with abuse disorders, addictions, sobriety, and other social issues that have increased in recent years.

Drug and alcohol dependencies are not the only assistance that the clubhouse focuses on; it is also a sober social community that can work with people in the vicinity that are struggling

and can help them connect to the resources that each individual needs to overcome their dependencies.

Kimberley stated that her own chemical abuse past struggles occurred even after attaining a successful career, and to recognize the issue was a step in right direction to recovery. Society will think that abuse problems mainly start with young people, but that is not always true. She said it can happen to anyone and age is not a factor.

When people come into the Clubhouse, it is because they are looking for help. Sometimes they will have been referred by a family member and the person is not ready to admit they have a problem. Uncomfortable conversations must become comfortable in order to get to the next step in the recovery process. Kimberley stated, "There is hope. No one is ever too far gone."

The sayings are true such as "birds of a feather flock together", and "if you sleep with the dogs, you'll wake up with fleas." All of these things point to peer pressure among a person's friends. Companions must be chosen carefully because of the influence they can have in your life.

Kara Griffiths came from Decatur, IN and started working at Ridgeview Mental Health and Recovery before being hired by Foundations Behavioral Health Services. Kimberley Cox came to work at the Clubhouse through a grant by the Tri-County DAMHS board. The Clubhouse has mostly men come in, but they want everyone to know that women are also welcome. There is a stigma in a community like this concerning addictions, but Foundations and the Clubhouse are here to help.

Whether it is needing a driver's license, birth certificate, GED, or even help with finding a place to repair your vehicle, the network connections that the Clubhouse offers is incredible for connecting people with the proper resources. Right now they work with groups such as Love Inc. (14 churches), the homeless shelter, Angel Intervention, Ohio Means Jobs, and others.

Cox wants to remind everybody how much choices matter in their lives.

If you would like to help or if you know somebody that does need help. You can direct them to the Clubhouse in Van Wert Ohio by calling 419-910-5141 or Emergency: 800-567-HOPE. You can also visit www.foundationsbhs.org or www.facebook.com/foundationsbhs

BUG SAFARI CLUB AT THE LIBRARY

Hey kids, want to have some fun and look for bugs? Join the "Bug Safari Club" sponsored by the Paulding County Carnegie Library Children's Room and the 4-H/OSU Extension. The club is geared to 5th through 8th grade. As a club we will be reporting on the effects of the solar eclipse and how bugs react. All supplies will be provided. The club will meet at the library on Wednesdays at 3:30 to 4:30, starting March 6th. Call the library at 419-399-2032 to sign up and join in on some bug fun! The Bug Safari Club is available through a grant from the California Academy of Sciences, Science Action Club.

DEF. CO. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING

Defiance County Transportation Improvement District will meet for their 2024 Organizational Meeting to discuss any possible projects on Friday, February 23, 2024 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Session Room 500 Court St., Ste A Defiance, OH.

AUGLAIZE CHAPEL CHURCH LENTEN SERVICES

Journey To The Cross Lenten Service are scheduled at Auglaize Chapel Church, 22652 Road 60, Oakwood, OH on the Thursdays leading up to Resurrection Sunday:

March 7, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Mike Harmon

March 14, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Justin Musto

March 21, 7:00 p.m. Pastor Ben Jones

NEW PAULDING COUNTY BUSINESS 'BACK WALL ARCHERY' OPENS



A new full-service archery sales and repair service facility has opened for business.

Back Wall Archery, owned by Thomas Cameron, established business located in Paulding County at County Road 171, Defiance, Ohio 43512, in Ohio in 2023 opening on November 27.

Cameron had been working on his own, his family and some friend's equipment for a couple years. The more he worked, the more those he helped encouraged him to go out on his own. "For years I've had the love for archery and loved working on my own bow. I wanted to provide the community with great service, along with fast service, for their archery equipment," Cameron stated.

The company is now certified in Ohio, Cameron is hoping to work with archers in the region that shoot compound or crossbows. In addition to providing archery equipment, Back Wall Archery is able to provide fletching repair on arrows along with strings and cables on bows.

The company originally reached out to the Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office for guidance. The office recommended a meeting with Lisa Becher, NW Ohio representative for Ohio Small Business Development. Using the information provided through those meetings, the business established and Cameron was able to turn back to the PCED office for additional help.

"Working with Thomas has been great as he dives into his business journey! We tackled his initial hurdles head-on by securing a small business loan and getting him enrolled in our marketing program. These resources, made possible through our collaboration with OhioMeansJobs and the Paulding County Area Foundation, are just some of the ways we're able to help our local businesses," shared Kristen Schilt PCED Office Manager.

For more information contact Cameron at 419-438-6870, backwall.archery@gmail.com or check out Back Wall Archery on Facebook.

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