

## WAYNE TRACE SENIOR KACY HORNISH SIGNING



Shown in the attached picture are (Front L-R) Abby Hornish (mother), Kacy Hornish and Kevin Hornish (father). In the back row are Wayne Trace Assistant and Head Volleyball Coaches Anne Myers and Cassidy Posey.

Wayne Trace Senior Kacy Hornish recently signed to further her academic and athletic career at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana. Kacy will be pursuing a degree in Pre-Elementary Education and furthering

her volleyball career. Kacy Hornish finished her senior season, breaking Wayne Traces school record for career assists formally held by Janelle Davis 2006-2010 with 1,295. Kacy's record now stands at 1,416 assists.

## MAKING THE CALLS

In a news release from the Midwest Buckeye Umpires Association, Hicksville's own James F. (Jim) Siler will be inducted into the OHSAA (Ohio High School Athletic Association) Officials Hall of Fame. The 2024 recognition banquet will be held on June 22nd in Columbus, Ohio, one day before Jim's birthday.

Retired from umpiring since last year, Jim called his first game in 1969 - for a fee of \$2.00! In 1971 he became a charter member of the MBUA. Affiliated with the OHSAA, Siler umpired base-

ball for 54 years. He also refereed basketball for 17 years. He has been tapped for 26 re-

(Continued on Page 2)



## ANTWERP HS TO PRESENT BEAUTY AND THE BEAST



Antwerp Local School is excited to present Disney's Beauty and the Beast on March 15, 16, and 17. The students have combined their talents, under the direction of Ashton Barnhouse and Summer Schooley, to present this timeless story of love, acceptance, and transformation.

Audiences will be spellbound by the vocal talents of Miranda Brooks as Belle and impressed by new-to-the-stage Beast, Corbin Lawson.

Additional cast members include the comic relief of Gaston, played by senior Nathan Boyer, and his sidekick LeFou, seventh grader Si-

mon Conley. Our enchanted cast includes senior Leila Spyker as Mrs. Potts, Ally Carnes (junior) as Lumiere, and Eden Shuherk (junior) as Babette. Lucy Conley (freshman) portrays Madame De La Grande Bouche, newcomer

(Continued on Page 3)

## LOCAL TOURNEY DEADLINE SET

Deck shuffleboard, pool snooker and quiz tourneys. Entry deadline March 31, 2024.

Mail entry - Tourneys, Box 94, Antwerp, OH, 45813

## ELEVATE YOUR LOCAL EXPERIENCE WITH YODEL: PAULDING COUNTY'S NEW COMMUNITY APP!

By: Erica Noggle

Paulding, OH: The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the launch of Yodel, Paulding County's very own community app that's set to redefine

how you stay connected with all things local.

Available for free download, Yodel brings together local news and events, ensuring you're always in the loop about what's happening around the county. With Yodel, you can tailor your experience by following your favorite local organizations, from nonprofits and businesses to schools and restaurants.

"We're absolutely delighted

to introduce a platform that fosters unity within Paulding County," says Erica Noggle, Executive Director of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce. "With Yodel's wonderfully intuitive design, you can personalize your feed, ensuring you catch sight of events that you are truly interested in. It's also a fantastic tool for promoting our 'Support Local' initiative, encouraging everyone to rally

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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
  - March 13**
  - Hoops 4 Heart @ Antwerp School, all day
  - Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p
  - March 14**
  - Community Lenten Svc @ Auglaize Chapel, 7pm
  - March 15**
  - Paulding KofC Fish Fry, 11a-1p & 4-7p
  - March 16**
  - Fish Fry @ Oakwood Fire Dept., 4-7pm
  - Spaghetti dinner w/bingo @ St. Paul UMC, Payne OH, 5pm

- March 17**
- New Millennium Jazz Orchestra @ Huber, 3pm

- March 19**
- PC Carnegie Library board meeting @ conf rm, 5:30pm

- March 20**
- Lenten Lunch @ 1st Pres. Church, Paulding, 12p
- WBESC board meeting @ conference rm, 5:30pm

- March 21**
- Community Lenten Svc @ Auglaize Chapel, 7pm
- Dot Art @ Antwerp Library, 1-5pm

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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**BID NOTICE**  
Taking bids to mow the Harlan Memorial Cemetery on Roberts Road, Harlan, IN for the 2024 season.  
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**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**  
Financial Partners Federal Credit Union, with headquarters in Woodburn, Indiana is seeking volunteers interested in helping with the financial well-being of their fellow citizens by serving on the Board of Directors or Supervisory Committee. The Board of Directors governs the day-to-day operations of the credit union while the Supervisory Committee serves an in-house audit function. Those interested in obtaining more information may contact either of the following:  
Stan Jones, VP 260-249-3125  
Dave Shuey, CEO 260-632-4245  
Financial Partners Federal Credit Union

**OBITUARIES**

where he enjoyed holding babies in the nursery.

Stevie was in love with his adopted calico cat Miss Kitty. His caregivers, who helped him stay in his home, were Richard Hurley, Collene Hill, and Darlene Doan.

Steven's siblings include: Ed (Sue) Kimpel of Edgerton, OH; Jayne (Steve) Stuckey of Marion, IN; Elaine Vetter of Gainesville, GA; Carolyn (Bill) Shining of Fort Wayne, IN; Don (Karrie) Kimpel of Edgerton, OH; Darrell Kimpel of Hicksville, OH; Lee (Andrea) Kimpel of Lexington, SC; Marlene (Patrick) Oxender of Montpelier, OH; Jeanette (Jim) Demlow of Florence, SC; and brother-in-law Jim (Dianne) Meyer of Huntertown, IN.

Stevie was an uncle to: Josh Kimpel, Kevin Vetter, Brad Shining, Shawn Stuckey, Greg Kimpel, Ryan Shining, Keith Shining, Randy Meyer, Eric Kimpel, Gary Vetter, Andy Stuckey, Scott Kimpel, Mike Kimpel, Aaron Kimpel, Lori Shining Miller, Karen Vetter Sotola, Natalie Oxender Atwood, Teri Oxender Brillhart, Bailey Miller, Kailey Miller McCain, Madeline Whitmire-Hicks, and Heidi Whitmire.

Stevie was also a great-uncle to many nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Vernon and Ruth (Imm) Kimpel, his grandparents Albert and Lula Imm and Edward and Gladys Kimpel, his sister Marcia Meyer, his sister-in-law Becky Meyer, and his brother-in-law Ed Vetter.

Friends may call for a time of visitation with the Kimpel family at the Edgerton Town Hall Gymnasium on Friday, March 8, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Stevie's arrangements have been entrusted to Krill Funeral Service, 114 East Hull Street, Edgerton.

Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 11 a.m. at St. Mary Catholic Church in Edgerton with Reverend Andrew Wellman officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to: Special Olympics of Williams County, 05653 St. Rt. 15, Bryan, OH 43506 or to St. Mary Catholic Church, 317 S. Locust St., Edgerton, OH 43517

To sign the online register or to send condolences, please visit <http://www.krillfuneralservice.com>.

**WOODBURN, IN:**  
**Susana Coonrod**, 80, of Woodburn, Indiana passed away Sunday, March 3, 2024 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. ARR BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME, 5761 SR 500, PAYNE, OHIO.



**ANTWERP, OH:**  
**JEAN F. REINHART**, 80 of Antwerp, Ohio, passed away at home on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

Jean was born in Antwerp on April 20, 1943, a daughter of the late Francis B. & Galen C. (Carr) Derck.

The simple start to her life on her family farm led to her becoming an exceptionally caring person. Jean's entire life was lived in service to others. She never second guessed her dedication to her church, family and community. She was an original member of the FISH Organization (this was a forerunner of the Meals on Wheels program). For many years she delivered meals to the elderly and homebound in the county. Jean volunteered at St. Mary Church. She taught Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) for over 25 years with 10 years as coordinator of the program. She was the head of the Funeral Dinner Committee for 37 years. She was a member and past president of the Altar/Rosary Society. She was a lay Eucharistic Minister for many years. Jean started many family traditions like taking the kids shopping and out to dinner on their birthdays; hosting the entire family on Christmas Eve and many annual events such as making Christmas candy,

coloring Easter eggs, hunting Easter eggs and others. Jean was mostly a stay-at-home mom but helped out financially by babysitting. She's still known as "Mom" around town by her many "kids". Whenever personal time was available, Jean also enjoyed researching genealogy.

Jean will be sadly missed by her husband, Paul Reinhart, to whom she was married on August 26, 1961; children, Mary (Jeff) Burkholder, Joe (Michelle) Reinhart, Julie (the late John) Reinhart, Rita (Todd) Andersen, Jim (Rose) Reinhart and Mike Reinhart; daughter-in-law, Crissy (Chris) Simmons; siblings, Ann (the late Chuck) Wiedman, Mary (Kenny) Donat, Cindy (the late Mike) Knight, and John (Heidi) Derck; brother-in-law, Brooks (Patty) Pendergrast; sister-in-law, Sonya Derck; 21 grandchildren; 13 great grandchildren and four more on the way!

Jean was also preceded in death by her son, William Reinhart, granddaughter, Bethany Reinhart; siblings, Tom Cottrell, Robert, Ruth and Pendergrast and Linda Pendergrast.

Viewing is Monday, March 11th, 2 - 7 PM with the rosary recited at 7 pm At Dooley Funeral Home, 202 W. River Street, Antwerp.

Jean's Mass of Christian Burial is Tuesday, March 12th, 10 am at Saint Michaels Catholic Church, 100 Antwerp Drive, Hicksville, Ohio.

She will be laid to rest in Maumee Cemetery, Antwerp.

Memorials are to The Faithful of Divine Mercy, PO Box 181, Antwerp Ohio 45813 or for Masses.

Fond memories may be shared at [dooleyfuneralhome.com](http://dooleyfuneralhome.com)

**PARKVIEW HOSPITALS NAMED BEST PLACES TO WORK**

Three Parkview facilities - Parkview Ortho Hospital, Parkview Wabash Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital - were recently named to the Indiana Chamber of Commerce's 2024 list of Best Places to Work in Indiana.

The three Parkview hospitals were among 193 Hoosier businesses selected to this year's list. Parkview was the only hospital system in Indiana to make to the 2024 list.

Parkview Wabash returns to the Chamber's list for the fourth time, previously being named a Best Place to Work in

Indiana for three consecutive years from 2018-2020. Parkview Whitley Hospital - which includes Parkview Kosciusko Hospital - was also previously named a Best Place to Work in Indiana. This year is the first time Parkview Ortho Hospital has been recognized by the Indiana Chamber.

"Parkview Ortho Hospital prides itself on providing the best orthopedic care to our patients, but we also take pride in providing a great working environment to our co-workers," said Dr. Alan McGee, president, Parkview Health Orthopedics. "It's a high honor to be named a Best Place to Work by the Indiana

*(Jim Siler ... continued from Page 1)*

gional tournament assignments and three state tourney jobs - in 1981, 1983, and 1984. Records show that Jim has umpired 3,100 games!

The Midwest Buckeye Umpires Association boasts that Jim is the fourth of their members to receive this prestigious honor. They will be holding an open gathering at the Van Wert, Ohio Pizza Hut on March 20th from 6 to 7 to honor Jim and fellow inductee and long-time friend, Bill Wonders. (The association is having a banquet after the open house with a meal. There is a \$15 charge for anybody wanting to stay for that. Those interested in attending the banquet to follow should register with Ron Golemon at 419-513-0439.)

Jim is a Vietnam era veteran of the US Air Force. A graduate of Stryker High School, he attended BGSU and Toledo University, getting his degrees over a period of time, during which he worked at BF Goodrich. Jim taught

electricity and electronics at Vantage for 15 years, followed by 16 years at Hicksville schools, where he taught psychology.

That psychology training came in handy during stressful times on the ballfield. Jim states that he "never made an enemy and never threw a coach out". Instead he would let them do their ranting, look them in the eye and ask "Are you done now?" Once the wind was out of their sails, the game could continue.

Jim is happy in retirement, stating that it's all been fun. He enjoys family time with his wife Donna, children Heather, Kelby and Perry, plus nine grandchildren and five great grands. Kelby is following in dad's footsteps as an umpire, with over 100 games so far.

Asked about this milestone achievement, Jim says getting the award gives him "a warm and fuzzy feeling. Fifty-five years is a long time, but you don't think about it in that way." He says "It's been a great avocation."

**Scripture of the Week**

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God."

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

**FAIRVIEW FFA HOST ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST**



**By: Elizabeth Bok**

Fairview FFA held their annual Pancake Breakfast on February 24th, from 8-11 am. A great deal of preparation and work had been put into this event. This event is run entirely by the chapter members. Many businesses and families generously donated silent auction items and funding for food supplies.

The chapter used 120 pounds of sausage, and 45 dozen eggs, 60lbs of hash-browns, and a great amount of pancake mix for the breakfast. In the cafeteria photo boards of various events over the past year that the chapter has participated in were displayed. The silent auction was set up outside of the cafeteria for people to look at and bid on.

The chapter worked very hard to make the event run smoothly and enjoyable for



the community members. The turnout was very good, with over 280 people attending the breakfast. The money raised from this event was enough to send 25 FFA Members to the Ohio FFA Convention in May. All of the room and registration expenses will be paid for all 25 of the members, from the breakfast profits.

Chamber of Commerce, and we look forward to this being the first of many times we earn this prestigious recognition."

"Best Places to Work in Indiana is a reflection of the positive attitude and satisfaction that our co-workers have

in their careers with Parkview," said Dr. Greg Johnson, regional market president, Parkview Health. "It's a pleasure to see Parkview Wabash Hospital and Parkview Whitley/Kosciusko Hospital recognized once again for the strong culture

*The siblings of Dolores Ryan...*  
...wish to thank all for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them following the death of their sister, Dody.

*Shirley Meyer & families  
Larry & Penny Ryan & families  
Bob & Cher Ryan & families  
Marilyn & Michael Patterson families  
Leslie & Bill Shugars & families  
Pat & Deb Ryan & families*



**EDGERTON, OHIO**

**Steven A. Kimpel**, age 54, passed away on Friday, March 1, 2024, in his home in Edgerton, Ohio. He was the son of Vernon and Ruth Kimpel.

Stevie was the favorite youngest brother of his ten older siblings. He, in turn, let his brothers and sisters know they were his favorite. Stevie was known for his hugs, love, and encouragement to others.

Stevie was a Special Olympian and participated in track, bowling, and basketball over his 47-year career. Many neighborhood friends joined him in a game of basketball as they were growing up. He perfected his three-point shot on the court in his back yard. He enjoyed playing in the All-Star Cage Classic every year and was known to call for his own standing ovation after sinking a three-pointer.

Stevie often decided upon a nickname for others, with many friends reporting he called them by their last name, maiden name, or wrong name. They knew it was his way of letting them know they were a part of his wonderful life.

Stevie was often seen riding his bike to area ball games. He was a familiar face at Rita's Family Dining, as well as Subway in the C-Store where he greeted friends and strangers alike.

In August of 2023, a book entitled Stevie was written and published by his sister Marlene.

Stevie began his education at Sunnyside School and attended Hilltop, Montpelier, Stryker, and Bryan school systems. He was a graduate of Edgerton High School where he was dubbed their "Number One Fan." He worked at several area businesses over the years and recently retired from Quadco in Stryker.

He was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church. He also attended Life Changing Church

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**LEAPING LIZARDS**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**

**By: Nancy Whitaker**  
Well, we know that every 4 years we have what is known as a Leap Year and 2024 is the year. The last leap year was in 2020.

If you happened to be born on Feb 29, from what I have read you are called Leaplings. This is because a birthday on February 29th is the least probable of all birthdays. The probability of being born on a leap day is 1/1461. However approximately 4.8 million people from across the globe do claim a leap year birthday.

1. Ladies,, here's your chance! Women can propose to men on leap day and a Leap year Ireland is full of weird and wonderful facts and traditions, but it is fair to say that this one is the most well-known.

29th of February 2024 is the opportunity for women to take matters into their own hands and pop the question.

Women are of course capable of proposing at any time of the year, but this day has been reserved traditionally in Ireland for women to get down on one knee.

2. Is Leap year bad luck  
Some cultures avoid getting married on a leap year as they are seen as bad luck. Italian proverbs warn women that leap years are likely to make them erratic and urge them to avoid making any big

life decisions until the leap year has ended.  
There is no evidence to support the marriage theory, however, two major events occurred during leap years, which some consider a sign of bad luck. These leap year events include ancient Rome burning in 64 AD and the Titanic sinking. (it was a leap year).

Leap year folklore also contends that beans and peas planted during a leap year "grow the wrong way".  
~Rob Leigh.

Here is a cute poem by Pauline Frances Camp  
I am a little fellow,



Though I'm always up to date.

The days I hold within my hand are only twenty-eight;

But I just save my moments up,

And count them o'er and o'er,

Till in four years I've saved enough to make up one day more.

But little folks that kindly are, and pleasant in their play,

May save enough in far less time to make a happy day.

~Pauline Frances Camp, February 1906

Were you born on Feb 29. If so, when do you celebrate your birthday? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for Your Thoughts.

and community bond they share. When our co-workers enjoy coming to work and are fully engaged in their jobs, it passes through to our patients in the form of high-quality, compassionate care."

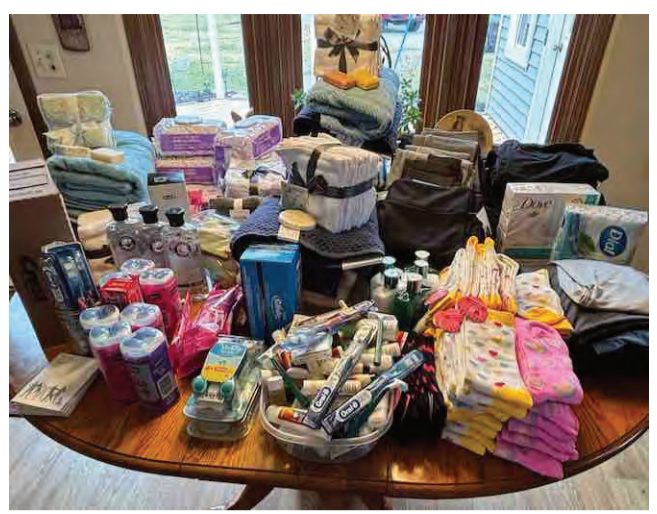
Companies from across the state entered the two-part survey process to determine the Best Places to Work in Indiana. The first part consisted of evaluating each nominated company's workplace policies, practices, philosophy, systems and demographics, worth 20% of the total evaluation score. The second part consisted of an employee survey to measure the employee experience. This part of the process, the Employee Feedback Survey, was worth approximately 80% of the total evaluation. The combined scores determined the top companies and the final rank-

ings. Workforce Research Group managed the overall registration and survey process in Indiana, analyzed the data, and determined the final rankings.

"The honored companies offer a blueprint for employee attraction and retention, and we are excited to celebrate their success. We hope the values and strategies on display in their workplaces can serve as models for other Indiana employers as we work together to address Indiana's talent pipeline needs," says Indiana Chamber President and CEO Vanessa Green Sindors.

Parkview Health now employs more than 16,000 co-workers in more than 20 counties in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio and is the region's largest employer. Parkview strives to fully support and enable its co-workers

**HERITAGE LIONS CLUN WRAPS UP CHARIS HOUSE PROJECT**



The Heritage Lions Club wrapped up their Charis House project by delivering several needed items to the Charis House in Fort Wayne, including over 60 pairs of leggings, several t-shirts, towels and wash cloths, and various toiletry products. A matching Thrivent Action Team card was used to purchase several

of the items. The Charis House is a division of the Rescue Mission, helping homeless women go from thriving to surviving.

The Heritage Lions motto is "We Serve" and we welcome anyone who wishes to help their local community to contact a Heritage Lion.

**ZONE CHAIR VISIT TO NEW HAVEN LIONS CLUB**



**Zone Chair Susie Hudson visited the New Haven Lions club on February 26th. She passed out service chevrons to three Lions. Lion Elmer Matthews, 40 years of service (seated) and Lion Dennis Stoll (left) and Bob Hudson (right), 20 years of service.**

to do their best work through a rounded package of competitive wages, strong benefits and additional perks to support co-worker mental health and physical well-being. Offerings such as the MyWell-Being program, quarterly lifestyle benefit stipend and the Parkview Pups therapy dog program go above and beyond to support co-workers.

"Parkview has and continues to invest deeply in our workplace culture as a way to support the health and well-

ness of our co-workers and ensure we can attract and retain the best caregivers," said Dena Jacquay, chief administrative officer, Parkview Health. "Our work is never done as we continue to listen to our co-workers and provide them with the support they want and need to perform their roles. Parkview may be our region's largest employer, but we also strive every day to stand as our region's best employer."

The final Best Places to

*(Beauty & ... continued from Page 1)*

Alex Dunham (sophomore) portrays Cogsworth, and Portley Lingenfelter (freshman) is Chip on stage. The talented cast also includes CJ Eaton (sophomore) as Maurice.

Ensemble characters play multiple roles throughout the show, highlighting their talents. These cast members include Cadem Ingol, Lexy Hicks, Aleta Sorrell, Alaina

Reinhart, Keira Spyker, Anabelle Saylor, Danica Lehman, Brody Smith, Alia Clem, Kaira Jones, Krystal Bradbury, Kati Phares, Elliana Burtnett, and Alexis Halker. The cast is also joined by three talented elementary students: Anna Wiechart, Brody Smith, and Zoey Cottrell.

Please join us at this magical show Friday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday, March 17th at 2:00 p.m.

**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**

Hubert M. Koenn Jr. was born in Cecil, Ohio May 16, 1890. The son of Hubert Sr., born July of 1855 in Hamburg, Germany and Veronica (Haep) Koenn born in Hamburg, Germany. This couple was married in Germany in 1880. They immigrated to America in 1884.

By 1890, the Koenn family consisted of Herman J. born 1881, Theodore Joseph December 31, 1884, Peter 1886, Mary A. 1888, Laurence March 18, 1889 and Hubert Jr. 1890, a farming family living in Crane Township. By 1900, the Koenn family grew in numbers. Josephine born in 1892, she passed away in 1893. Thomas Mathew October 18, 1893, Rena 1896, Joseph Henry 1899. In 1902, a daughter Clara E. blessed this family. Veronica's brother, Peter, came from Germany to live with the Koenn's. Hubert Sr. was still farming, most of the children were in school, but were still helping on the farm.

Son Peter, passed away in 1907. He was buried with his sister at the Immaculate Conception Cemetery outside Cecil. By 1910, the Koenn family, were still farming. Children in school and the older children helping on the farm. As war was looming in France, a national draft was underway. Theodore, a minister in Indiana, registered September 12, 1918. He was not chosen. Laurence registered June 5, 1917, he also was not chosen. Thomas reg-

istered June 5, 1917, selected to serve out of the national army out of Paulding, June 25, 1918. He served in France with Company B-C 334th Infantry. Wounded in action at Ypres-Lys, honorably discharged April 26, 1919. Listed as 10% disabled.

Hubert Jr. registered, June 5, 1917. Single, working as a garage mechanic and barber, medium height, stout build, brown eyes, dark brown hair, he was selected to serve. May 24, 1918, he was in the national army. Between that time, he married Hazel B. Biggs, born September 3, 1890 in Illinois. She was a school teacher, who went on to teach for 33 years.

On August 6, 1918, he was sent to New Port News, Virginia to board the ship, "Huron" and shipped off to France. He was assigned to Company H. 153d Infantry 39th Division. He served as a mechanic September 4, 1918. He served until October 1, 1918, when he was assigned to the Labor Company 5th Depot Division to November 11, 1918, then assigned to Company L. 164th Infantry until he was Honorably Discharged March 15, 1919.

By 1920, Hubert and Hazel were living in Cecil on Main Street. Hazel a school teacher and Hubert a machinist working at a local garage. Hubert Sr. passed away in 1921, followed by Veronica in 1923. Both are buried with their children. Hubert Jr. lost a brother, Laurence and sister Rena in 1928. Hubert and Hazel will have two children, Mary Joan born September 8, 1929 and Hubert Joseph born January 2, 1932. By 1930, the Hubert Jr. family was living in Crane Township. Hubert was engaged in farming and Hazel teaching school. On October 16, 1940, Hubert suffered a heart attack at home and passed away. The Rev. C.H.Scheib and Rev. Theodore Koenn officiating. Hubert M. Koenn Jr. was buried with his parents and brothers and a sister. Hazel passed away in 1982, she was buried with her husband.

Work in Indiana rankings will be announced at an awards ceremony May 8 and then published in the Indiana Chamber's BizVoice® maga-

zine after the event. For more information on the Best Places to Work in Indiana program, visit [www.BestPlacestoWorkIndiana.com](http://www.BestPlacestoWorkIndiana.com).

**CHILI COOK-OFF**  
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### HICKSVILLE SUPERINTENDENT HONORED



Pictured above is Keith Countryman with BASA Ex. Dir. Dr. David Axner.

Hicksville Superintendent, Mr. Keith Countryman was honored with the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA) Exemplary Leadership Award. This award recognizes the efforts for outstanding contributions to educational leadership within an educational

district. The award was announced last fall at the BASA Conference but was recently celebrated again during Hicksville Schools' local board meeting with BASA Executive Director, Dr. David Axner presenting the award to Mr. Countryman.

### PPEC BUDGETS \$4 MILLION IN RELIABILITY INVESTMENTS FOR 2024, RATE ADJUSTMENT IN MAY



PPEC linemen work on a pole replacement.

For 2024, Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative is planning \$4 million in investments focused on system improvements that will directly increase the co-op's service reliability. This year begins a new four-year construction work plan addressing system growth, proactive maintenance, and SCADA (supervi-

sory control and data acquisition) improvements to reduce outage duration. To continue investing for the future, the co-op will implement a rate adjustment due to rising costs. Effective on the bills received in May, the average residential member using 1,200 kWh a month will see a monthly increase of \$26.45,

depending on their usage and home circumstances.

PPEC's costs of doing business have increased substantially since the co-op's last rate increase in 2018. PPEC is not-for-profit and has held off this increase for six years to minimize the impact on members; however, since 2020, average equipment costs are up 40-60%. The PPEC Board of Trustees - elected by the membership - approved these new rates after the co-op's third-party Cost-of-Service Study.

Members wanting additional information can watch the PPEC Annual Meeting Broadcast at 10:00 am, Saturday, March 23, online at PPEC.coop, on Facebook, or on YouTube.

To maintain the high standard of service PPEC members expect, highlights of the 2024 work plan include:

- A budgeted 25 miles of old copper line rebuilds across Ohio and Indiana to reduce outage minutes.
- Installing and upgrading new sectionalizing equipment for improved reliability, system durability, and reduced outage time. More than \$100,000 is budgeted for these improvements, which will automatically isolate faults and segment PPEC's electrical system, resulting in smaller outages affecting fewer members.
- Upgrading equipment in the Baseline substation and maintenance for Antwerp, Cecil, Roselm, Latty, Columbus Grove, and Convoy substations. This will improve service reliability and extend the lifespan of these substations, raising their performance.
- Installing 150 RF meters to complete PPEC's advanced metering system upgrade. This provides members with improved energy data to monitor usage trends and help make more informed decisions through their online SmartHub account.
- NEW feature coming in April: SmartHub users will receive a new "Home Energy Analytics" tool providing the energy breakdown of each home appliance and projected

bill estimations with custom tips to help you reduce your electric bill.

• Testing 4,000 poles in Crane, Emerald, and Auglaize townships in Paulding County and Delaware, Defiance, and Highland townships in Defiance County through contractor Osmose. Poles are tested on a 10-year rotating cycle; any that fail the test will be replaced.

• Underground line extensions into new subdivisions (like Kennebec) in New Haven, Indiana. This is the co-op's fastest-growing area. PPEC saw 202 new services in 2023, with nearly 100 upgrades.

• PPEC's right-of-way tree trimming and vegetation management contractor, Mint City Utility Services, will work in the Antwerp, Cecil, Roselm, and Latty areas.

• Installing animal guards at various substations to help reduce animal-caused outages.

• Purchasing two new trucks, a digger derrick, and a bucket truck. These are replacing trucks that have reached the end of their duty cycle and will be less prone to mechanical issues. Less time in the shop means more time on the job. These new trucks also have additional features that allow crews to work more safely and efficiently.

• Executing an electric vehicle study to see the forecasted impact on PPEC's grid. Members considering an EV should complete the form online at [www.PPEC.coop/EV](http://www.PPEC.coop/EV).

• Effective this year, PPEC is offering members a new \$250 rebate for Level 2 electric vehicle chargers. Members are encouraged to charge during off-peak hours. Rules apply; contact the office for details.

As a not-for-profit, democratically operated utility, Paulding Putnam Electric Co-op returns members' patronage (their portion of equity in the co-op) to them as capital credits. In Dec. 2023, PPEC returned \$2.5 million in capital credits to over 23,000 current and former members.

Follow PPEC on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube for updates throughout the year. You can also sign up for PPEC's monthly email newsletter under the "News and Magazines" tab at [www.PPEC.coop](http://www.PPEC.coop).

Have questions about upcoming construction in your area, or about PPEC's new rates? Call the co-op at 800-686-2357.

(Yodel ... continued from Page 1)

around our local entities." Yodel is calling upon all local organizations to join the app. Showcase your events, initiatives, and announcements to a wider audience, amplifying your community impact.

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### PJHS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Sawyer Hunt (Grade 6), Ava Leatherman (Grade 8), and Owen Stoller (Grade 7).

### PJHS POSITIVE PANTHERS: KINDNESS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. February trait was KINDNESS. Shown above (l-r) are Kristen Rader (Grade 7), Wesley Grindstaff (Grade 8), and Larissa Bautista-Enriquez (Grade 6).

### PHS ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School recently announced their Students of the Month for February. Pictured above are (l-r) Senior Tytus Manz, Junior Matthew Bail, Sophomore Emma McCray and Freshman Kyra Jackman.

### KIDS COOK IN HICKSVILLE

Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., Hicksville, and SNAP-Ed are teaming up to offer 6-12 graders a special, three-class cooking series using the library's Charlie Cart mobile kitchen.

learn to create healthy meals and snacks. Classes are April 6, 16, and 23 at 5 p.m. at the library. Space is limited and registration is required.

Register at [defiancelibrary.org/cook](http://defiancelibrary.org/cook) or by calling the library at 419-542-6200. For questions about the programs, including questions related to food allergies, please call the library.

Each class will build on the previous session as attendees

### 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

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# PAULDING FFA CHAPTER CELEBRATES NATIONAL FFA WEEK



Pictured here are the Juniors who were the winning class during the 2024 Country Olympics during National FFA Week.

By: Grace Goyings, Paulding FFA Reporter

February 20th-23rd, the Paulding FFA Chapter celebrated National FFA Week by having many events throughout the district. During this week, every day was a dress-

up day for high school and this year we included the elementary schools and the middle school, which was a huge success. When students entered the building on Tuesday there was an FFA emblem scavenger hunt in all the

buildings and once a student found an emblem they turned it in for a candy prize! It was so fun to see the students in all grades finding hidden emblems all week.

Tuesday was sleepy farmer, where students got to wear their pajamas with boots. Paulding FFA held their 1st annual Farmer Appreciation breakfast to give back to the community and all the farmers for all of their support. A corn hole tournament for the high school was held in the High Gym during AAA. The FFA officers also made a quiz to educate the entire high school about agriculture in Paulding County. The students took the quiz and once they got 100% they were given a cookie donated by Ag Credit.

On Wednesday, the dress-up day was fishing vs. hunting. The chapter got to enjoy a catered lunch to thank the members for all of their participation sponsored by Farm Credit.. We also had State FFA Officer Emma Wells do some awesome team-building activities with all the ag classes.

Thursday was FFA shirt day. FFA members brought in a wide variety of food to host their annual staff appreciation lunch featuring grilled hot-dogs and burgers made by the Paulding FFA Alumni. Friday's dress-up day was country vs. country club. Also on Friday, the Paulding FFA hosted its annual Country Olympics with the entire high school in attendance.

The students competed in a wide variety of games and competitions with their teams. These games consisted of balloon stomp, pie eating contest, tug of war, seed spitting, cattle roping, musical chairs, and a milking contest. Tyler Schlatter & Kobe Foor were the cornhole champions for 2024 and claimed their prize at the end of the games. The students had an enjoyable day at the Country Olympics and are very excited for next year.

The West Bend News is published weekly for residents of northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. The publication is wholly owned by West Bend Printing & Publishing Inc.

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# HUBER OPERA HOUSE TO PRESENT "THE CHARITABLE SISTERHOOD OF THE SECOND TRINITY VICTORY CHURCH"

By: Bo Wilson

The roads are flooded, the bridges are washed out, and less generous souls are staying safely indoors, but it takes more than a little rain to keep the ladies of the Charitable Sisterhood from fulfilling their sworn mission. Bea Littleton (played by Nichole Robinson) is the pastor's wife; Lorraine

Jensen (Taylor Sidle) is the tireless mother of nine; Tina Yates (Gretchen Clark) is the transplanted Yankee; and Janet Murchison (Peggy Sisco) is the newest arrival.

When these ladies meet to organize a relief effort for homeless Guatemalans, they are greeted with a small mountain of community donations—but one woman's junk is another woman's treasure, and that pile of stuff in this little church basement is hiding a thing or two.

Come sit in on this

month's meeting in the basement of Second Trinity Victory Church; our five angels of mercy including a surprise visitor, Riley Reynolds (Coral Watkins) will leave you breathless with laughter as they do their best to help the victims of global disaster, spiritual deprivation and, most of all, one another. The Deputy (Jake Evans) adds to the mix producing a hilarious and heartwarming play!

Join us at the Huber on April 12 or 13 at 7:00 p.m. or April 14 at 2:30 p.m. to enjoy this delightful comedy.

# HOW CAN YOU MANAGE STUDENT LOAN PAYMENTS?

If you have student loans, you likely received a "payment vacation" over the past few years, due to legislation related to COVID-19. But if you're like millions of other borrowers, you may have recently been required to resume your payments. How will this affect your overall financial situation?

Of course, the first thing that comes to mind is the effect on your monthly cash flow. But the amount of pressure you feel will depend on your income and the size of the required payments. If these payments do represent a real challenge, you may need to adjust your budget and spending habits as best you can. However, there might be other steps you can take to help ease the burden or possibly reduce the repayment time.

Here are a few suggestions to consider:

• **Sign up for autopay.** Falling behind on your student loan payments can lead to late fees, and if you were to become truly delinquent, you could face even bigger troubles, such as wage garnishment. To avoid these problems, you can enroll in autopay, in which you move money automatically from a checking or savings account to your student loan provider. In addition to staying current on your loan, you might earn a .25 percent rate reduction, which is offered by many lenders and loan services to those who enroll in autopay.

• **Refinance your loan.** With a steady income, a reasonably good

credit score and a manageable number of other debts, you might be able to refinance your student loan and reduce your interest rate, which will enable more of your monthly payments to go toward the principal.

• **Look for employer benefits.** Some employers — typically the larger ones — offer student loan repayment help to employees, so check with your human resources department.

• **Make extra payments.** If you feel strapped just making your regular student loan payments, you may not be able to make extra ones. But if you can afford to add to your payments consistently, you could pay off your loan earlier than you had thought. But just because you make an extra payment, the money doesn't necessarily go toward reducing your principal — student loan services generally apply payments first to late fees and then to accrued interest. If you pay online, you should have an option to apply extra payments to the principal. Your loan servicer could also pro-

vide you with other ways of paying more toward principal.

• **Choose a payoff strategy.** If you have multiple student loans, and you can make more than the minimum payments, you may want to be strategic in how you pay off your loans. You could choose the "snowball" method by getting rid of the smallest loans first — a technique that can give you feelings of momentum and satisfaction. Or you could take the "avalanche" approach by first going after the loans with the highest interest rates. Either route could save you more money in the long run.

It can certainly be challenging to deal with student loan debt. But with patience and diligence, and by exploring all your repayment options, you may be able to help yourself make progress toward putting these loans to rest.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

# NICELY SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Naomi Nicely as the guest speaker at the March 7th, 2024, club meeting. Naomi, Community Relations and Marketing Director at the Paulding County Hospital, and a fellow Kiwanian, gave the group an update about everything that is happening at the Paulding County Hospital. Naomi is pictured with Erica Noggle, Kiwanis President.

# 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  
**Bryant:** Chief, Town&Country, Walmart, Bryan Hospital, CVS, 4 Seasons, Dollar General  
**Cecil:** 127 Maramart  
**Charloe:** Charloe Store  
**Continental:** Okuley's Pharmacy, Dollar General, ACE Hardware  
**Defiance:** Newman's Marathon Carry Out, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General, Senior Center, Walmart, Cabbage Patch, Advanced Auto, Main Stop Marathon, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library  
**Edgerton:** Kaiser Supermarket, USPS, Utilities Dept., H & W Napa, Marathon Main Stop & Marathon (East)  
**Grover Hill:** N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library  
**Hicksville:** Sailors, Hickory Creek Nursing Home, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library  
**Ney:** Marathon  
**Oakwood:** Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Library, Landing Strip  
**Paulding:** Stykemain, Chief, Corner Market, Integrity Ford, Holly, Wood & Vine, Napa Do It Best, Bargain Bin, Maramart, Dollar General, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware, Gorrell Bros., Albert Automotive, Paulding Courthouse, Paulding VFW Post 587, Paulding Co. Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Paulding, Paulding County Hospital, Kwik Mart, PC Carnegie Library

**Payne:** Village office, Panchos, Vancrest of Payne, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Puckerbrush Pizza, Maramart, Library  
**Sherwood:** Post Office, Village Food Emporium, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library  
**Scott:** Scott Post Office  
**Van Wert:** CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Family Video, Orchard Tree  
**INDIANA LOCATIONS**  
**Fort Wayne:** Hahn Systems, Walmart, Walgreens, Great Clips & Goodwill (Maysville Rd.), Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living  
**Grabill:** Save-A-Lot, Grabill Hardware, Grabill Country Sales  
**Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank  
**Hoagland:** Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub  
**Milan Center:** Milan Center Feed & Grain  
**Monroeville:** Mel's Deli, Phillips 66, The Village of Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General  
**New Haven:** ACP Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, McDonalds, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Old City Hall, Richard's  
**Woodburn:** Clip-N-Tan, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress, Country Oasis, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, S&V Liquors, Post Office, Dollar General, Phoenix Manor, Chop Shop, ACP Library, Willies Cafe II

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# BEARCATS END RAIDERS RUN FOR STATE TITLE IN DISTRICTS



WT senior Kyle Stoller makes a pass as Lima opponent attempts to block. Photo by Lions Eye Photography.

Wednesday March 6th Wayne Trace headed to Lima High School for the Districts game in Division III Semifinal Basketball. This game ended the 2023-24 season for the Raiders after a grand season of 18-6 and 7-0 in GMC. Final tournament score: Spencerville 62, Wayne Trace 45.

Score by Quarters:  
WT - 8 12 17 8 = 45  
Spencerville - 15 19 17 11 = 62  
Wayne Trace Scoring:  
Hudson Myers 0-0-0-0;  
Tanner Laukhuf 1-0-3-5;  
Brady Miller 1-0-0-2; Caden Sinn 0-0-0-0; Tyson Gerber 0-0-0-0; Cale Winans 1-0-0-2; Carter Clemens 1-0-0-2; Caleb Mosier 0-0-0-0; Lance Maenle 0-0-0-0; Blake Noggle 0-0-0-0; Kyle Stoller 13-1-5-34; Zach Stoller 0-0-0-0  
Spencerville Scoring:  
Will Sensabaugh 1-1-3-8; Evan Osting 4-0-2-10; Grady Smith 0-1-0-3; Owen Sensabaugh 4-2-4-18; Reggie Jones



Lil Raider ready for the game! Photo by Lions Eye Photography

0-0-0-0; Carter Sudhoff 8-0-0-16; Carder Orr 0-0-7-7; Michael Woods 0-0-0-0; Hunter McPheron 0-0-0-0; Ryan Bowsler 0-0-0-0  
Great season to these talented athletes!

# DEPTH SENDS ARCHERS TO WIN OVER TIGERS



Senior Carson Altimus was on fire against the Tigers in this Sectional final Matchup. Carson added several 3 point baskets, just like this one! More pictures at westbendnews.net

For two quarters, visiting Holgate gave host Antwerp all it wanted in Friday night's Division IV boys basketball sectional championship contest at the home of the Archers.

However, the blue and white dominated the third quarter and went on to cruise to a 58-31 win over Holgate as Antwerp advances to play in the Division IV district tournament at Defiance Tuesday evening.

The Henry County squad opened an 8-6 lead at the end of one quarter before both teams picked up a dozen second quarter markers as Holgate still led 20-18 at the intermission.

Quarter number three, though, was dominated by the Archers.

Antwerp poured in 30 points in the stanza and held the visiting Tigers to just two points as the Archers blew open the contest and recorded a 48-22 advantage entering the final period.

The blue and white then put the game away with a ten-

point fourth quarter while Holgate picked up nine to set the final margin at 58-31.

Carson Altimus led a trio of Antwerp players in double figures with 15 points and Reid Lichty bucketing 13 and Zaine McMichael recorded a dozen markers.

Landon Brewer added seven points for the blue and white with Camden Fuller chipping in five and Ben Savina recorded four points. Derek Hines also had two points for Antwerp as the Archers raised their record to 21-2 overall on the season.

Holgate was paced by Xavier McCord with ten markers and Logan Miller chipped in four points.

Austin Medina (three), Dylan Boecker (three), Holden Hartman (three), Kaiden Giesige (two), Wyatt Meyer (two), Jarrett Engle (two) and Mathew Healy (two) completed the scoring for the Tigers, who close their year with a record of 8-16 in all games.

Grady Barton finished with nine markers and Greyson Harder chipped in eight points for Paulding, which improves to 15-9 overall on the season.

Evergreen was led by Blade Walker with a dozen markers and Eli Kiefer posted 11 points for the Vikings.

Drew Gillen chipped in eight markers for Evergreen with Tyson Woodring finished with three points and Riley Dunbar picked up two points. The Vikings wrap up the 2023-2024 season with an overall record of 17-6.

## STATE PATROL INVESTIGATES COMMERCIAL ROLL-OVER

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Defiance Post is investigating a single commercial vehicle crash. The crash occurred at approximately 5:12 PM on Sunday March 3, 2024. The crash was located on State Route 18 one half mile west of Harris Road. Curtis Stewart, age 65, of

# GAME OF THE YEAR ENDS ARCHERS STATE RUN



Sophomore Zaine McMichael has a break to the basket as he attempts to score two points in this photo by Harlee Moore!

Antwerp met up with Maumee Valley Country Day to attempt to claim the Division IV state basketball bracket this past week. Archers were playing their A-

game, but so was MVCD which led to a battle for the top score. After the final buzzer, Antwerp was defeated, 63-70. Great season Archers - hold that head high!

Deshler Ohio, was west-bound on State Route 18. Mr. Stewart was driving a 2004 Peterbilt with a tanker trailer of milk. While negotiating a curve, he drove off the west side of State Route 18 and overturned. The crash caused damage to the trailer which released several thousand gallons of milk.

Mr. Stewart was transported from the scene by South Richland Township EMS to Promedica Defiance Regional Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted by the Defiance County Sheriff's Office, South Richland Fire, Defiance EMA, Defiance

County Hazardous Materials Team, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and John's Towing.

The crash remains under investigation and State Route 18 is closed at this time for clean-up.

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

## PANTHERS CLAIM SECTIONAL TITLE

After winning on the road in the Division III sectional tournament Tuesday evening at Delta, Paulding had to go on the road again Friday night to Fulton County to battle Evergreen.

The maroon and white did just that and came back with a

similar result as the Panthers took the early lead and pulled away from there for a 56-36 victory over the Vikings.

Paulding recorded a 16-11 advantage at the end of one quarter and then doubled up the Vikings in the second stanza, putting up a dozen points to Evergreen's six in taking a 28-17 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, the Panthers picked up 16 more markers compared to Evergreen's 13 in expanding the margin to 44-30 entering the final period.

Kane Jones led the way for the maroon and white with 17 points while Casey Agler and Blake Rhonehouse each reached twin digits with 11 points.

**ED BOHN @ PAULDING COUNTY EMA**

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# FRANKLIN B. WALTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM RESULTS



Pictured above are (front row, l-r) Aewyn McMichael and Malia Manz; (back row, l-r) Cadence Cook, Amy Chavez, John Kramer. Missing in the picture is Emma Laukhuf.

The Western Buckeye ESC hosted the Franklin B. Walter Scholarship Program on March 6th at the Vantage Career Center. The individual district winners are as follows:  
**PAULDING COUNTY:**  
Aewyn McMichael, Antwerp  
Malia Manz (county winner), Paulding  
Emma Laukhuf, Wayne Trace

**VAN WERT COUNTY:**  
Cadence Cook (county winner), Crestview  
Amy Chavez, Lincolnview  
John Kramer, Van Wert  
As county winners, Malia Manz and Cadence Cook both received \$500 scholarships from the Western Buckeye ESC. The rest of the students received \$100 scholarships for being selected as their district representative.  
Malia Manz and Cadence

Cook will both be recognized at an Awards Luncheon in Columbus in April hosted by the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA).  
The following businesses and individuals contributed to this awards program: Avangrid Renewables, Paulding Fraternal Order of Eagles, Paulding Kiwanis, Jan Kohart, Jordan & Tricia Taylor, Thomas Taylor and an anonymous local foundation.

## RAIDERS RALLY FOR WIN OVER BULLDOGS

After a first quarter that saw visiting Columbus Grove jump out to an eight-point lead, host Wayne Trace rallied to go on top at halftime and went on to post a 50-39 Division III sectional championship victory Friday night at the 'Palace.'

The Northwest Conference and Putnam County League Bulldogs got off to a great start, hitting seven of nine first quarter shots in posting a 17-9 lead over the Raiders after one period.

However, the red, white and blue answered in the second stanza.

Wayne Trace posted 15 points in the second quarter while limiting Columbus Grove to six as the Raiders



Wayne Trace Senior Cale Winans is sent to the line and scores the last point of the game for the home team, winning the sectional final! More pictures at westbendnews.net

seized a 24-23 lead at the midway point of the contest.

The red, white and blue extended the advantage in the third period, getting 11 points in the quarter while the Bull-

dogs bucketed eight in putting Wayne Trace on top 35-31 entering the final stanza.

Wayne Trace then sealed the victory with a 15-point fourth quarter to record the 50-39 win.

Bo Birnesser topped the Bulldog effort with 14 points while Landon Best also reached twin digits with 11 markers.

Trenton Barraza added eight points and Kyle Hopkins finished with six points for Columbus Grove, which closes its season with a record of 14-10 overall.

Kyle Stoller paced Wayne Trace with 16 points on the night while sophomore Carter Clemens chipped in a career high ten markers for the Raiders.

Tanner Laukhuf and Caden Sinn both scored eight points for the red, white and blue and Hudson Myers contributed five points. Cale Winans also had three markers for Wayne Trace as the Raiders advanced to district play with a record of 18-5.

## GREEN BEARS TOO MUCH FOR ACES

Ottawa Hills dominated the first quarter and rolled from there to a 62-43 win over visiting Hicksville Tuesday

evening in Division III boys sectional basketball action.

The Green Bears completely controlled the opening quarter, scoring 24 points in rolling to a 24-4 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action.

Ottawa Hills added to the margin in the second quarter, bucketing 17 points compared to Hicksville's ten in expanding the lead to 41-14 at the intermission.

In the third period, the Aces outscored the Green Bears 17-16 but Ottawa Hills still held a commanding 57-31 lead entering the final quarter.

Braxtyn Heisler led the way for Hicksville with ten markers while Luke Eicher and Garrett Turnbull chipped in eight markers for the Aces. Brayden Slattery and Austin Sanders added five points each for Hicksville followed by Bronson Graber (three), Owen Stuckey (two) and Brant Langham (two).

Ottawa Hills was paced by Chase Miller with 21 points and Avi Hanusz recorded 15 markers for the Green Bears.

Also finding the scoring column for Ottawa Hills were Jackson Snyder (nine), Chance Coy (five), Nick Anderson (five), Gabe Grimm (four) and Preston Thom (three).



# An Ounce of Prevention

## A SCREENING FOR COLORECTAL CANCER COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

Colon cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in the United States, affecting men and women equally and claiming the lives of more people annually than breast cancer or prostate cancer. But here's the good news - if detected early, colon cancer is treatable and preventable with a five-year survival rate of 90%!\*

Early detection is the key, and Paulding County Hospital can help. We conveniently offer self-referral colonoscopy services to those who qualify. For additional information please contact the office of Dr. Matthew Hogan at 419.258.5641 or visit our website, [pauldingcountyhospital.com/self-referral-colonoscopy](http://pauldingcountyhospital.com/self-referral-colonoscopy).

 **PAULDING**  
COUNTY HOSPITAL  
[pauldingcountyhospital.com](http://pauldingcountyhospital.com)

1035 West Wayne Street  
Paulding, Ohio 45879  
419.258.5641

\*according to the American Cancer Society

# THE LEFT TURN



Trevor Jones



Jonathan Decker



Oakshade Thunder Stocks, (8) Scott Hammer (21B) Chris Bleikamp (13) Jacob Gilbert Photo Credit: Charlie Orns

By: Ron Burt

I was able to attend the Race Cars & Future Stars at Piqua Event Center (formerly Miami Valley Centre Mall). I was impressed by how many race cars were on display that will soon be on area race-tracks. Most of the cars there will race at Shadybowl, Waynesfield Raceway Park, and Limaland Raceway Park. If you would like to see pictures from the show visit Ohio Sports Blitz on Facebook or Tik Tok.

It was a pleasure to meet two of Ohio's top Quarter Midget racers at the Race Cars & Future Stars. Both young guns had their cars on display beside their autograph tables. Jonathon Decker and Trevor Jones already have big wins on their racing resumes. Their parents and sponsors are behind these two talented young men and giving them the platform they need to become the racing stars of tomorrow. At the end of 2024 I will try to check back on these two and find out how they did and what might be next.

If you like area racing a great online resource is The Hammer Down Racing Report, Thursdays at 7PM on Facebook. Scott Hammer has been behind the wheel of a

bunch of different types of race cars, and he currently races the No. 8 Dominator Stock at Oakshade Raceway. When he's not on the track competing, he's the tracks public address announcer. The co-host of the show is veteran driver and car builder Ron Miller. Ron is going from the Late Model Class to the Fremont Dirt Truck Class this season. The 7PM weekly show covers some of the National racing scene and area tri-state tracks. Each show features a guest that could be a popular local driver or a top driver in the World of Outlaws. You never know what guest will be on the set. Once the state high school basketball tournament is over in a couple of weeks my Facebook Live stream will start on Thursday nights at 6PM. I will cover upcoming races from 17 tri-state tracks both dirt and pavement. I will also try and cover USAC, World of Outlaws, Great Lakes Sprints, and other series. I'm looking forward to doing one-on-one interviews on the Ohio Sports Blitz.

During the winter I received messages from some of you expressing interest in meeting, and reminiscing about racing from tracks that no longer exist. I think many

of us have stories to share from the speedways that we attended and some of you may have raced at Bryan, Avilla, New Bremen, Baer Field, and other tracks. I would be happy to meet and hear your stories. There is a need to talk and share history so it can be passed on and not forgotten. I have no problem setting up a time and place with Indiana readers wanting to meet and the same with Ohio readers. If you want to have a get-together over coffee, please contact me [ohiosportsblitz@yahoo.com](mailto:ohiosportsblitz@yahoo.com).

The 2024 Compact Touring Series schedule is out and it's one that would make Super Late Model drivers envious. These fast 4-cylinder cars will be some of the most famous paved Midwest tracks. This year they have race dates starting at Bristol Motor Speedway and closing the season at the Nashville Fairgrounds Speedway. The stops in between include race dates at Anderson, Ona, Salem, Angola, Toledo, Shadybowl, and Winchester. Some tracks will have two race dates for the series.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

## ZACH BARTON ADVANCES TO



### STATE COMPETITION

Paulding eighth grader Zach Barton recently advanced to the Ohio State Council Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Championship after qualifying from a competition at the Ottoville Parish Center. Barton, who advanced earlier in competitions at Paulding High School and at Delphos St. John's, hit 19 of 25 free throws to qualify and will now compete at the state level on Saturday, March 16, at Columbus Bishop Ready High School. He will compete in the boys 13-year old division.

## MOLLY CAREN AGRICULTURAL CENTER IMPACTED BY TORNADO

Severe weather, now confirmed as six tornados by the National Weather Service, moved through central Ohio early in the morning of Feb. 28, 2024, causing significant damage at The Ohio State University's Molly Caren Agricultural Center in Madison County.

The center, in London, is the site of the annual Farm Science Review, hosted by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES).

No individuals or animals were in the impacted buildings at the time of the storm, and no one was injured. The university is continuing to assess the extent of the facility and equipment damage at Molly Caren and will determine contingency plans once the evaluation is complete.

It has already been announced, however, that CFAES is fully committed to

# VANTAGE OPEN HOUSE



Guests arrive at the annual Vantage Open House "Taste of Vantage" in celebration of Career and Technical Education Month. The Open House is a chance for interested sophomores and parents, graduating seniors and adults to experience Vantage high school and post-secondary education options that align with their career interests.

On Monday, February 26th, Vantage Career Center hosted its highly anticipated annual Open House and "Taste of Vantage," event that showcased the connection of career-tech education and economic growth.

For high school sophomores and their families, the Open House presented a gateway to exploration. They navigated through 19 career tech programs, engaged in conversations with instructors, witnessed demonstrations from current students, and forged connections with local employers and colleges onsite. This experience provided potential students with firsthand insights into the dynamic world of career-tech education and its profound impact on shaping future careers.

Miriam Owens, Community Relations Coordinator, underscored the significance of Career and Technical Edu-

cation (CTE) as a catalyst for progress. "Career and Technical Education is forward-thinking, student-centered, innovative, flexible, and expands student options," remarked Owens. "At Vantage Career Center, we equip both high school and adult students with the resources and skills needed to pursue continued education or in-demand careers."

In alignment with our commitment to local workforce development, Vantage Career Center's post-secondary education staff was available for graduating seniors and adults seeking to elevate their careers within the thriving health, manufacturing, and public safety industries. Vantage's Adult Education staff provided invaluable guidance and resources for potential adult students in their pursuit of professional advancement.

"A Taste of Vantage" was held in the Commons Area during Open House. Seven area restaurants offered delicious samplings of some of their most popular cuisine. Restaurants included; Black Angus on Main, The Moose Landing Country Club, Millie's Cafe, Corner Market and Catering, Convoy Road Coffee Roasters, Canal Side Burgers and Brew, and the Vantage Culinary Arts program. Announcing the evening's activities was DJ Ron Burt of Magic Moment Entertainment.

The Vantage Open House was sponsored by; Dark Horse Productions, Lange Photographics, Alliance Automation, VTF Excavating, Tru-Land Equipment, Lee Kinstle GM Sales and Services and Taylor's Auto Sales, Central Insurance, and Unverferth Manufacturing.

## CELEBRATING READ ACROSS AMERICA AT GROVER HILL ELEM.



Celebrating Read Across America & Dr. Seuss Birthday at Grover Hill this week. Pictured above is from Mrs. Alexis Short's class - Soaring to Great Things - Flying a Kite Thing One & Thing Two.

hosting Farm Science Review on schedule, Sept. 17-19, 2024, with either new or temporary facilities in place for the event.

"At this time, we believe at least 10 this university-owned buildings at the site were damaged or destroyed. Some privately-owned buildings on Farm Science Review grounds were also impacted, and we are reaching out to their owners," said Graham Cochran, CFAES associate dean for operations. "We immediately started the recovery process, which will include clearing the debris field and assessments of each building damaged."

The site is currently closed to the public due to public safety and structural concerns.

The show will go on in September, said Matthew Sullivan, superintendent of the Molly Caren Agricultural Center. "Farm Science Review is an annual destination for many and a premier education showcase for the College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. You know, people go on vacations, but farmers and industry leaders come here to see the latest and greatest in farming equipment and agricultural research. That's our job—to ensure that when they show up, it's the best farm show in the United States."

Madison County Airport, just west of Molly Caren, where many Farm Science Review attendees fly into, also received significant damage from the tornado.

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

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# THREE LOCAL WRESTLERS PUNCH TICKET TO STATE TOURNAMENT



Freshman Stroker Etter advances to state. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Paulding County schools sent 12 wrestlers to the District Tournament held at the Hobart Arena in Troy on March 1st and 2nd. Out of the 12 wrestlers, 3 were able to secure their position on the podium and a trip to the state tournament in Columbus March 8-10th.

In the 120-pound weight class, Corbin Kimmel became a two-time State Qualifier. Kimmel started the day with a dominating pin over Reid Wischer from Madeira in 1:26. Moving forward, he defeated Hunter Foss of Valley View with a score of 14-0. Kimmel was then defeated by Logan Dean of Bethel Tate and sent to the consolation bracket where he defeated Rocco Mauro of Alter with a score of 2-0. In the battle for third place, Kimmel was defeated by Eli Campbell of Legacy Christian. Kimmel earned

fourth place in the 120-pound weight class.

Paulding freshman Thor (Stroker) Etter wrestled in the 132-pound weight class, finishing in 3rd place and securing his trip to Columbus. Etter pinned his first opponent, Tony Bell of Ironton in just 1:34. Etter followed up in round two with a pin over Matthew Wheeler of Mid. Madison in 5:34. Michael Hagan of Covington then won over Etter with a score of 6-3. In the consolation rounds, Etter defeated Kason Dill of Alter with a score of 5-2. In the final match of the tournament for Etter, he was able to pin his opponent, Austin Hamilton of Coldwater, in 2:39.

Rounding out the trio to represent Paulding County at the State Tournament is Nate Osborn, the 190-pound senior of Wayne Trace. In the first round, Os-



Senior Nate Osborn advances to state. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Corbin Kimmel advances to state. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

born pinned Lucas Schriber of Valley View in just 1:05. Osborn then defeated Brody Bingle of Waynesville with a final score of 5-4. In the semi-finals, Osborn won with a score of 4-3 over Will Callicot of Fairland. In the finals match, Osborn was defeated by Owen Pummel of Indian Lake with a score of 11-0.

Other wrestlers included 106-pound Nico Moreno, ending in 6th place from Paulding. Colton Kimmel, the 113-pound Wayne Trace wrestler with a weekend record of 2-2. Paulding's Landon Dasher, wrestling at 126-pounds, with a record of 1-2. Antwerp's Kamren

Johnson who ended in 6th place for the 132-pound weight class. Graiden Troth, the 144-pound Wayne Trace wrestler with a record of 1-2. The 157-pound Antwerp wrestler Miles Doster. Miguel Martinez of Paulding ending the weekend with 1-2 in the 190-pound weight class. Paulding's Kobe Foor in the 215-pound weight class with a final weekend record of 2-2. Wayne Trace's Blake Schultz who wrestled in the 185-pound weight class.

Congratulations to all wrestlers who qualified and represented their schools and county at the 2024 District Tournament.

## WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle GEORGE WASHINGTON

- Across**
- He led the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War as THIS.
  - He oversaw the construction of THIS but never lived there.
  - Washington played a key role in drafting the U.S. Constitution as one of THESE.
  - George Washington was the first THIS of the United States.
  - Washington's treaty with Great Britain, attempting to avoid war in the 1790s.
  - Washington is often referred to as THIS for his role in its founding.
  - Washington's plantation home in Virginia.
  - Washington supported the creation of these to the U.S.
- Down**
- He established the tradition of presidential advisory THESE.
  - A popular anecdote about Washington's honesty as a child was a story of THIS.
  - He was appointed THIS of the Continental Army by the Continental Congress.
  - Washington was a prominent member of THIS organization.
  - He served THIS LONG as President, setting a precedent for future presidents.
  - Washington led a military expedition to HERE in 1754.
- solution on page 11*

**Your Local Bank in Paulding**  
103 South Main St. • Paulding, OH 45879  
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## NOTICE OF ON-LINE SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Revised Code, Section 5721.19.1  
**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO**  
In the Matter of Foreclosure of Liens for delinquent land taxes:  
**LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, TREASURER PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**

**LISA ROSS aka LISA CAPERTON, ET AL., Defendants,**  
Case No. CI 23 112

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against certain parcels of real property for taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges as follows:

**North First Street, Oakwood**  
Parcel Number: **10-09S-009-00; 10-09S-010-00; and, 10-09S-008-01**

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse.

The opening bid is Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-nine and 55/100 (\$3,639.55) Dollars, sufficient to cover pro-rated taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges of this suit.

Whereas, said judgment orders such real property to be sold by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of said judgment;

Now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Jason K. Landers, Sheriff, Paulding County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction to the highest bidder of an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment against each parcel on Thursday, March 28, 2024 by on-line bidding at:

(RealAuction) <https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>. **Registration and a Ten and No/100 (\$10.00) deposit must be completed at least one week before the date of the sale.**

If this parcel does not receive a sufficient bid, it shall be offered for sale on-line, under the same terms and conditions of the first sale on April 11, 2024 for the same minimum bid.

Bidding begins on scheduled Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. An auction will be conducted for each individual property/court case. After a property is sold, the next scheduled sale will begin.

The purchaser will be required to pay recording costs and transfer fee with the balance of the purchase price after the sale has been confirmed.

Purchaser(s) are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

**PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FEDERAL TAX LIEN THAT MAY NOT BE EXTINGUISHED BY THE SALE, AND PURCHASERS OF ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY ARE URGED TO SEARCH THE FEDERAL TAX LIEN INDEX THAT IS KEPT BY THE COUNTY RECORDER TO DETERMINE IF NOTICE OF A FEDERAL TAX LIEN HAS BEEN FILED WITH RESPECT TO ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY.**

Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.pauldingohsheriff.com](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)  
Joseph R. Burkard, Prosecuting Attorney

### Crane Township Notice

The Crane Township Zoning committee meeting will take place on Monday March 18 at 6:00 p.m. at the Crane Township Hall.

—Stephanie Moore  
Crane Township Zoning Secretary

### PUBLIC NOTICE

The Paulding County unaudited 2023 Annual Financial Report is now complete and available for inspection at the office of the County Auditor, Paulding County Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, OH 45879.

Claudia J. Fickel  
County Auditor

## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio until Monday, March 25, 2024 at 11:00 A.M., at which time and place, bids will be opened and read for 703 Aggregate for use by the Paulding County Highway Department. Bidding documents and specifications will be issued at the Office of the Paulding County Engineer. They can also be found online under the "Bids" tab at [www.pauldingcountyengineer.com](http://www.pauldingcountyengineer.com).

Bids must be submitted on the forms provided by the Engineer. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope bearing the Bidder's name and address and marked "Sealed Bid for 703 Aggregate".

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Multiple awards may be made for various types of aggregate.

Factors which will determine ultimate purchases by Paulding County are; unit bid prices, terms of purchase, location of project, availability of gradation, type of material desired for a particular application, cost of transporting from pickup site to County stockpile, quality of product, and/or type of surface desired. If available, prices are requested for washed #9A stone.

No bid will be considered unless it be accompanied by a bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Ohio or a certified check from a solvent bank in the amount of five (5%) percent of the total bid to guarantee that if said bid is accepted, a contract will be entered into and the performance of it properly secured.

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO**  
Heather Barnhouse, Clerk

## ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153  
**DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**

**BRANT SAMUEL VERFAILLIE, ET AL., Defendants,**  
Case No. CI 23 085

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

**830 North Walnut Street, Paulding**  
**Parcel Number: 30-27S-073-00**

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com)

Said premises appraised at One Hundred Eight Thousand and No/100 (\$108,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the March 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>.

**Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.**

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on April 4, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.pauldingohsheriff.com](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)  
Carrie L Davis, Attorney for Plaintiff

# ANNUAL PAYNE ELEMENTARY BOOK EXCHANGE



Payne Elementary celebrated Dr. Seuss week with various activities including a book exchange. Students brought in their used books in exchange for a different one. Pictured with their new books are Emersyn Showalter, Clara Sinn and Andrew Stoller.

Payne Elementary held their annual Book Exchange on March 7, 2024. Title I teacher, Mrs. April Krouse, holds this event each year to promote literacy and encourage students to share their love of reading, especially during Read Across America week. Students are encouraged to bring in up to 2 gently used books for the exchange and then choose different books to take home.

This year approximately 350 books made their way into new homes!! Every student in the school went home with at least one exchanged book. Students enjoyed choosing books not only from their favorite authors, but as well as from a wide variety of topics and genres. Mrs. Krouse appreciates all the help that went into this exchange and looks forward to next year's event!

# MARCH CAME IN LIKE A LION AT ANN'S BRIGHT BEGINNINGS



Ann's Bright Beginners are talking about the weather during the month of March at preschool. The special helper of the day stepped outside and declared the first day of March was a LION day - brrrr! We talked about lions and lambs and wind, snow and sunshine! Registration is now open for preschool for the fall and also for summer care for all ages! Please call 419-399-KIDS (5437) for more information! Shown above with a lion project we did during the day are from left: Mateo Ash, Lakelynn Sauber, Brynleigh Adams, Johanna Federighi and Van Snyder. These children are in the PreK class and attend on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

**Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report**  
**Hunter S. Gile**, Scott, OH; Domestic violence; Case dismissed  
**Lavan D. Owens-Cal-loway**, Suitland, MD; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Keegan M. Skiver**, Paulding, OH; Confine of dog (2

counts); Bench trial held, testimony given; Court finds defendant guilty; Pay fines and costs by 4/26/24  
**Dylan J. Kuckuck**, Paulding, OH; Tinted windows; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Hannah E. Gasser**, Payne, OH; Driving/texting; Guilty; Defendant completed course  
**William D. Kemnetz Jr**, Strawn, IL; Over width; Guilty; Case was waived by

defendant  
**Kevin L. Booker Jr.**, Indianapolis, IN; Over width; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Kathy L. Siedlecki**, Toledo, OH; FRA suspension, Guilty, Warrant block rescinded, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Failure to control, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Child restraint, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs  
**Britney Johns**, Paulding, OH; Disorderly conduct; Case dismissed per state request; Assault, Defendant appeared with counsel, Pled guilty, 90 days jail, 87 days suspended, Report to jail on 3/29/24 and pay or collection 12/20/24  
**Zurab Oshoridze**, Spring Valley, NY; Marked lanes; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**Megan N. Landers**, Melrose, OH; Theft; Defendant appeared with counsel, Mr. Gronsky, pled guilty; 90 days jail, 86 days suspended; 10 hours community service; Write a letter of apology; No contact with Oakwood Dollar General; Pay restitution of \$26.45  
**Thaddeus W. Lang**, Haviland, OH; Burglary; Defendant waived the preliminary hearing with counsel  
**Kurt V. Belau**, Holgate, OH; Left of center; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Brendy R. Perez**, Hicksville, OH; No operator license, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs; Failure to control, Guilty, Defendant to pay all fines and costs  
**Patrick M. Elkins II**, Cecil, OH; Failure to control; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Fernando R. Hall**, Jacksonville, FL; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

**William T. Vance**, Paulding, OH; Receiving stolen property; Case dismissed  
**David A. Rupert**, Antwerp, OH; Confine of dog; Defendant appeared in open court without an attorney, Pled guilty; Pay all fines and costs by 4/26/24  
**Zachary A. Smith**, Leo, IN; Unsecured load; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Lupe L. Sanchez**, Antwerp, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant  
**Burak Aktulan**, Brookyn, NY; Marked lanes; Pled no contest, found guilty; Defendant to pay all fines and costs  
**Storm V. Cheney**, Van Wert, OH; Seat belt/drive; Guilty; Case was waived by defendant

## GREAT NEW DAY

**By: Doris Applegate**  
 A great new day is coming We can hardly comprehend  
 For it will be so glorious Made especially for man When Adam gave his day away  
 It was ruined by the fall By Jesus came and bought it back  
 And now it is our "call" We'll work with God to make it right We'll shine in glory and love so bright  
 The day God promised long ago Will come at last, restore man's soul  
 God soon will blast away the old And earth will once again Become the place of paradise  
 Where there will be no sin A thousand years of peace

# EAST VINE NOW OPEN FOR PARTY, WEDDING, AND MEETING RENTALS IN SHERWOOD



(L-R) Owners Luke, Samantha, Kelsey, and Levi Kuhn held the grand opening for East Vine in downtown Sherwood on February 22.

A newly renovated two-floor event space in Sherwood — held its Ribbon Cutting and Open House on Thursday, Feb. 22. The event also doubled as Sherwood Area Economic Development's Annual Meeting, where area businesses, CEOs, historians, elected officials, and local residents gathered to hear village updates and officer elections.  
 This modernized yet elegant building is ideal for parties, showers, reunions, meetings, or gatherings of up to 50 guests. The first-floor gathering space — fully equipped with a kitchen, bar, HD TVs, and bathroom — comes with tables and chairs. The second floor — complete with a compact kitchen, bathroom and

shower, dining room, and flex space with vanity and seating — rents separately with a bedroom for overnight stays.  
 This venue is a sister space to Crystal Fountain Park and can also be rented in conjunction with weddings for bridal prep, groom's quarters, and a honeymoon suite.  
 Guests will notice a historic, elegant charm throughout the space, including the original tin ceiling and brick from when the building opened in 1910. Over the past century, East Vine (formerly known as the Fraker building) in downtown Sherwood has been home to:  
 • Horse-drawn carriage & piano store  
 • Harness and saddle re-

pair  
 • Sherwood Schoolhouse  
 • Bowling alley  
 • Hackman's Bakery  
 • Chevrolet & International Dealer ... And more!  
 Regardless of your event, owners Levi, Kelsey, Luke, and Samantha Kuhn are ready to help guests make memories, celebrate big occasions, and conduct business in style!  
 Submit an event inquiry online at [www.crystalfountainpark.com/eastvine](http://www.crystalfountainpark.com/eastvine) or email [admin@crystalfountainpark.com](mailto:admin@crystalfountainpark.com).  
 A video recap of the event and additional photos can be found on East Vine's Facebook page. East Vine is located at 123 East Vine St, Sherwood, OH 43556.

on earth  
 When mankind knows real joy  
 When wars will end, turmoil will cease,  
 Children will play, both girls and boys  
 Everyone will then obey  
 The commandments of the Lord  
 And over all He'll have the say  
 Jesus will rule it, it is His day!

## LIBRARY SYSTEM, BOARD OF DD TEAM UP TO OFFER INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, and the Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities is teaming up with Defiance Public Library System to offer inclusive programming during the month and beyond.  
 The Board of DD and Sherwood Branch Library are inviting patrons of all ages to Inclusive Storytime on March 21 and April 18 at 4:30 p.m. at the library, 117 N. Harrison St., Sherwood. They are also partnering to offer an Inclusive Book Club that will meet on the last Tuesday of the month (March 26, April 30, and May 28) from 1-2 p.m. at the library. Book selections will be geared to ages 13+.  
 Then, the Board of DD will visit Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., on April 9 at 10:30 a.m. to share one of their favorite books, "Just Ask! Be Different. Be Brave. Be You" by Sonia Sotomayor. The story explores the fact that feeling different, especially as a kid, can be tough. However, just as many types of plants and flowers make our world more vibrant and beautiful,

different types of people make our world more wonderful too. The story is geared to ages 0-6. After reading the book, a representative from the Board of DD will offer information about the board's services and

Early Intervention Program. No registration is needed for any of these programs. For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

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**Saturday, March 23**  
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# LOVE IS ...



Giving your only son. My granddaughter gave me a book of stories, written by a guy in Alabama, and I find it quite intriguing. He talks about his folks getting a divorce when he was age 9, and he would live with his father one weekend, and his mother the other weekend. He said this is the worst arrangement ever. You need two sets of everything, and you still forget something that you need, and you are never truly home.

His parents sat him down one night and told him his dad was moving. But first they were taking a vacation in Hawaii, and he would be staying with his grandmother. As they left he stayed at the window until he was instructed to go to his room. He listened to the radio and the local disc jockey had a dedication show which made him think of the song, "I Want To Know What Love Is," by Foreigner.

He knew it would take his folks an hour to get to the airport, and if he could request they play the song it might save their marriage. He dialed and got a busy signal, hung up again, and did this for 45 minutes till he finally got through. Needless to say his folks didn't hear the song, and he didn't save their marriage. It became evident that they were getting a divorce. To a 9-year-old boy this is something that is impossible to understand.

"I wanna know what love is I want you to show me I wanna know what love I know you can show me" He's been living with his dad every other weekend, and his dad has gone overboard to make his life enjoyable. They spent many weekends outdoors hunting and fishing and he was becoming an expert. His one recollection was the fish that got away, and when he brudded about it about it His dad gave him a lecture about concentrating on the one that got away.

Their main meal was hamburgers, instant mashed potatoes, and peas. His dad loved peas. It was a small

apartment so his dad would smash the burgers on a counter no bigger than a school desk. He had a Weber grill on the back stoop, but there was only room for his dad and the grill so he would watch TV. Later he would regret that he never learned to grill burgers because all his buddies were experts.

His one recollection was that his dad ate onions nearly every day, but he couldn't stand them. One day his dad said he was making him a special burger, and as he bit into it wasn't too bad, but when he realized it was onions and it made him sick. To this day he still can't stand onions.

When he was 18 he met beautiful lady, they married and she put through law school. Today he is a respected courtroom lawyer in a small Southern town. They have three daughters and he has tried to be the best father that anyone could be. Their together thing has been hunting and fishing. They live only an hour and a half from the ocean, and there are lakes all around them. Each girl has their own tackle box and is an expert fisherman.

His only indulgence is a nice boat and a diesel puller, which he feels a bit guilty for, but not too much to enjoy it. The dually even comforts him, after a long hectic day in court. All the tension vanishes as he hears that diesel come to life. He treasures a pistol that his wife got him, and he carries it whenever he is outdoors. Rattlesnakes are quite common in their area. I think if there is any takeaway from this story is that the family unit is such an important thing. Without the family our society eventually dies.

A healthy family is to be treasured.

I grew up in a church where divorce was simply not tolerated, therefore I knew this was not an option. Our church has become lax on this teaching but I still have the same mindset. This has never been an issue because I have a wonderful wife and companion, a hard worker, and I don't know how I would live without her.

God gave the only son he had, that whoever believes. John 3:16. God gives us a gift, which is free, and all we need to do is accept it. We are here to give glory to God. This is the only thing that really makes sense, and as I get older becomes more precious.

—James Nwuhouser

## SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP AT THE NATIONAL ALPACA SHOW

The Mazuri Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. (AOA) National Alpaca Show presented by Heritage Farm Alpacas & Events and RayNay Alpaca Farm will feature more than alpacas! The show offers a rare opportunity to visit vendors from throughout the United States and beyond, offering a variety of fine products

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made from alpaca fleece as well as alpaca related items.

One facet of alpaca fleece that makes it so much in vogue is its great variety of natural colors; pure white, several shades of fawn and brown, several shades of gray and true black – some 16 official colors with many other subtle shades and hues. White, light fawn, and light gray can be readily dyed, thus offering a rainbow of colors for the fleece artist. Alpaca fleece can also be readily combined with other fine fibers like merino wool, cashmere, mohair, silk, and angora to attain incredibly interesting blends.

Come see what everybody is talking about at the 2024 Mazuri Alpaca Owners Association, Inc. (AOA) National Alpaca Show presented by Heritage Farm Alpacas & Events and RayNay Alpaca Farm

Hours are Friday, March 15: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Saturday, March 16: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; Sunday, March 17, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

For more information about the AOA National Alpaca Show presented by Heritage Farm Alpacas & Events and RayNay Alpaca Farm, visit [www.alpacanationals.com](http://www.alpacanationals.com).

### DRONE SPRAYING

Aerial Drones are being used in agriculture. Alan Leininger, OSU Extension Educator, Henry County is

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doing agricultural research on drone applications. Drones have several advantages over ground-based spray equipment.

First, they economically apply small rates of spray (herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, nutrients), seed (small seeded cover crops) and are battery operated. Second, they fly in the air, so there is no soil compaction. They extend the application season. If it is too wet, applicators can still spray. There is no wheel damage to standing crops. Applicators can precision apply product at the ideal time during the growing season to address a nutrient or pest problem. Drones are also autonomous meaning they fly themselves on a set pattern. Humans still have to be present for fill ups and to trouble shoot problems (low flying planes, helicopters, towers, telephone lines, tree, etc).

There are several different kinds of drones with various prices. Avoid buying cheap drones on the internet. Most have to be flown manually and have low quality. They may be alright for aerial pictures, but they have little power for product application. The DJI drone holds up to 10 gallons, has a 36-foot swath, and can apply material at 2 gallons/acre (gpa) or 52 acres/hour (aph). The cost is around \$20,000 to \$40,000. Hyllo drones (AG272) have a larger capacity (18 gallons) 40-foot swath, 2 gpa and 50 aph. They cost more at around \$55,000 to \$75,000. The Hyllo is quite large similar in size to about 2-4 long tables. The XAG is a much smaller drone often used with a spreader box to spread cover crop seed.

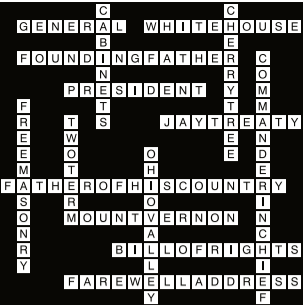
Drones can not be used for all pesticides due to label restrictions. Glyphosate (Roundup) needs a minimum of 3 gpa of water. Liberty needs 10 gallons water, and some fungicides and in-

secticides need more water to spread the product. Drones are prohibited from spraying the following products: Enlist, Acuron (Atrazine), Harness Extra, Xtend Max (Dicamba). The pesticide label is the law, so until these labels are changed, drones use is at least limited or prohibited on these products. For this reason, ground-driven application equipment will still be needed to apply these products.

Using a drone requires several certifications. First the FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) requires a Part 107 pilot license to fly commercial drones. Recreational drones do not need this license. Part 137 is required to aerial apply pesticides, similar to crop dusters. It takes longer to get the certifications than it does to learn to fly a drone which may only take a 1-2 days. Drones are limited to flying only 400 feet high but usually operate at 20-40 feet above the crop canopy. Drones do not have the right of way and have to yield (get on the ground) when airplanes, helicopters, etc. are in the vicinity. From USDA, drone pesticide applicators need a commercial pesticide license (Category 1).

As a general rule, drones must weigh less than 55 pounds. A small drone typically weighs 24# plus 2 gallons of water (17#) so they are under. If you have a larger payload (10-18 gallons of water) plus the drone weight, you need a special exemption which will cost more money. Another rule, all drones must maintain a line of sight by the operator. They may be self-flying, but the operator is responsible for watching for incoming flying traffic or any other problems than may occur. Drones are restricted from flying near airports (Class B, C, D) or within the boundaries of air traffic control. Most small county airports are exempt but you still have to land the drone if plane, helicopter flies in. Generally, drones can not be operated above 15 mph wind speed which is similar to ground-spray equipment. Most drones can stay on course at 5-10 mph but operate the best at 0-5 mph wind speed.

Alan Leininger has done



**Crossword solution from page 9**

some research on spray effectiveness using drones. Turbo Jet spray tips spraying 2-2.5 gpa had less variation and more consistent coverage, but the spray droplets were smaller. Air Induction nozzles had larger droplet size but wider variation in spray coverage. When compared to over-the-top boom sprayers (ground driven), both had similar results on fungicide application and control. Drones often move the canopy when they fly over tasseled corn, which helps move the product down into the leaves, but it may not be consistent across the whole spraying swath. Most drones need at least 4 batteries that last 12 minutes in flight before being replaced. Larger drones need more batteries. There needs to be much more research done on drones, but they are here to stay. Except for more relaxed restrictions and larger payloads in the future.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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# GROWTH FITNESS TO "PUMP-UP" BUSINESS IN DOWNTOWN OAKWOOD



Community leaders welcoming Growth Fitness to the Village of Oakwood (from left to right), Oakwood Development Company President, Blane Fickel; PCDE Director, Tim Copsey; Oakwood Mayor, Josh Duslak and Growth Fitness Owner, Kass Chesnut.

Growth Fitness is opening its second Paulding County location in the Village of Oakwood this Spring. Owned and operated by Paulding County businessman Kass Chesnut, Growth Fitness offers a wide variety of fitness equipment for men and women and currently is open and operating in the Chief Shopping Center in Paulding. Among other amenities, Growth Fitness members have access to free high speed internet access.

"Our Growth Fitness operation in Paulding has been very successful and we anticipate having the same success in Oakwood," said Mr. Chesnut. "We'll be opening in the old Oakwood Hardware and Lumberyard in the heart of

the Village."

Oakwood Growth Fitness will open and accepting members this Spring.

Members can access the gym day or night using a convenient cellphone app.

"Growth Fitness will occupy about a third of the available space in the building. We are developing plans to bring other new businesses into the remaining space," Chesnut added. Chesnut recently acquired the building from Auglaize Spirits and Coffee, LLC.

"We are thrilled to have a young entrepreneur like Kass investing in the Village of Oakwood," states Oakwood Mayor Josh Duslak. "Our hope is that Growth Fitness

attracts complimentary businesses to our downtown area, such as a specialty coffee shop with fresh baked goods or a smoothie and ice cream parlor."

Oakwood Development Company President, Blane Fickel, is extremely optimistic about what's ahead for the community. "Growth Fitness is just one of several new businesses we see coming to Oakwood in 2024. With the help of Tim Copsey and his great team at Paulding County Economic Development, we're making it known that Oakwood is 'Open for Business.'"

For more information on Growth Fitness, visit them online at [www.growthfitness-paulding.com](http://www.growthfitness-paulding.com)

benefitting Defiance Public Library, and live entertainment throughout the day. Vendors can save \$10 on the price of a booth by signing up during early-bird registration, which is open now until May 31. All registrations must be received by June 14, and instructions will be emailed to vendors during the week of June 24.

Complete information and a vendor application are available now at [defiancelibrary.org](http://defiancelibrary.org). For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

## AGCREDIT LAUNCHES 2024 MISSION FUND: OFFERING GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

AgCredit, a leading agricultural lending institution, is thrilled to once again launch the 2024 AgCredit Mission Fund. This initiative aims to provide support to local community organizations by offering grants of up to \$15,000. The application deadline for interested groups is July 31, 2024.

According to AgCredit President and CEO Brian Ricker, "The 2024 AgCredit Mission Fund represents our commitment to fostering sustainable growth and development in rural communities. We are excited to support initiatives that align with our focus areas, including Education, Environment, Technology, and Quality of Rural Life." Organizations interested in applying for the grant can do so by visiting [AgCredit.net](http://AgCredit.net). Join AgCredit in creating a brighter future for farmers and rural communities.

# THIS WEEK ON PCBW: ED BOHN, EMA DIRECTOR



Do you know when the last total solar eclipse was in NW Ohio? Listen to EMA Director Ed Bohn update us on the solar eclipse coming April 8, 2024, and the effects it could have on local traffic patterns and even the Paulding County economy. You can hear this edition of

PCBW on Tuesdays & Thursdays at 8:00 AM & 5:00 PM or listen online at [www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/](http://www.my1027.org/paulding-county-business-weekly/). Episodes are also available wherever you listen to podcasts. Thanks to OhioMeansJobs for sponsoring this program.

## FRIENDS OF DPL SEEKING VENDORS FOR ART IN THE PARK 2024

The Friends of Defiance Public Library will host their

42nd annual Art in the Park event on June 30 on Fort Street/at the Fort Grounds, and the group is currently welcoming vendor applications.

The fundraising event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., And includes artists and craft vendors, children's activities, a used book sale with proceeds

Since inception, the Mission Fund has awarded \$585,000.00 to local community organizations.

Mission Fund Application: <https://www.agcredit.net/about/community/mission-fund>

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# DAIRY SPECIALS OF THE WEEK