

THE EKKLESIA IN HARLAN CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY WITH CONCERT



The congregation of the Ekklesia in Harlan will begin a yearlong celebration of its 10th anniversary on May 5, 2024. The church is located at 12616 Spencerville Road, Harlan, in what was the former Harlan Elementary School. The church is known by its unusual name "THE

EKKLESIA IN HARLAN" which is taken from the Greek language used in the Bible. The word "Ekklesia" translates as 'church or assembly'. When asked about the unusual name the Senior Pastor, Lael Barkman, commented, "We wanted to stimulate curiosity in the community as

we moved into our current campus". Making the move 10 years ago has opened many opportunities for daily ministry. The facility has the largest Christian childcare program in the area called Raise Up for Christ. This ministry helps working fami-

(Continued on Page 2)

ANTWERP CHAMBER SPONSORS 2nd CHOCOLATE WALK



Attention Chocolate Lovers! The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is offering you another chance to try some delicious handmade chocolates and pair them with sweet or dry wine. 2nd Chocolate Walk is scheduled for May 11th, from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Enjoy a trip collecting chocolates and, if you would like, add a bottle of wine to take home AFTER the walk. If you plan to reserve a bottle of wine, you will need to specify your

choice of sweet or dry when making reservation for the Walk.

The morning of the Walk you will need to stop at the Leland Smith Insurance office to pick up your punch card and sample your first chocolate. You will not be able to sample chocolates without a punch card. The punch card will list the participating businesses. Stop at each business, sample a chocolate unique to that business, and at the end of the walk, vote for your favorite chocolate at the Leland Smith Insurance office. If you reserved a bottle of wine, you will pick it up at this time also. As an added incentive to stop and drop off your vote for your favorite chocolate, participants will receive a chocolate-covered cherry and a chance to win a dozen assorted chocolates.

Make plans to enjoy this fun activity and hopefully, Mother Nature will cooperate with a lovely spring day. PS... you will need a vehicle to hit ALL the businesses participating in this year's Chocolate Walk, and you must be 21 years old to reserve a bottle of wine. All chocolates are made locally by chocolatiers of the Global Methodist Church.

To reserve your spot in this year's Chocolate Walk, stop in and see Alison at the Leland Smith Insurance office or text Angel (419-258-0656). RSVP by May 6th!

PERI CHAPTER 10 MEETING

NOTICE!! All 96 state members: PERI Paulding County Chapter 10 will hold its meeting at the Paulding County Senior Center, 410 E. Jackson St. at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 1, 2024.

APT MANUFACTURING COMMIT INVESTMENT IN ARCHERS' FUTURE GENERATION AT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



Ben Nighswander, APT Manufacturing; Kyle Zartman, Antwerp School, Tony Nighswander; APT Manufacturing - Want to be entirely involved in the upcoming generation of young people, training them for the industry.

By: Bryce Steiner

The April Antwerp School Board meeting took place on April 23 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting began with Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller announcing the guests at the meeting. APT Manufacturing made a \$5,000 donation to the Innovation Center and Kyle Zartman gave a presentation of what will be added to the science center to bring about automation education to the schools. APT is a company in Hicksville that has been making a significant contribution to the food automation industry.

Board President Sara Schuette asked for an approval of the minutes of the previous board meeting. Bob Herber, as the state liaison, stated that proposed Senate Bill 208 would allow a military family move in and could be placed in a school district even if that

school's quotas have been reached. Dennis Recker, Vantage Board, stated there was an all board dinner, but he wasn't able to make it to the meeting. He also said Vantage is expanding the fire facility and truck driving class.

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

income: 1,661,788.47
expenses: 1,372,958.27
interest: 47,468.74

The school is 75% through the fiscal year. Recker stated that the revenue over the past year or so seems to have increased. Stuart explained why the funding changed at the state level and how it has benefited schools with needs.

Travis Lichty, HS Principal, gave his end of year report. He mentioned prom and the juniors finally were able to go on their eighth grade class

(Continued on Page 3)

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Community Calendar

- MON & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p
- May 1**
- OPERS meeting @ PC Senior Ctr, 10am
 - WT School Board special meeting, lecture rm., 7:30am
- May 2**
- NH UMC Women in Faith Rummage fundraiser, 9a-6p
- May 3**
- FW Swinney Homestead Open House, 10a-4p
- May 4**
- Oakwood Fire Dept. Open House, 5-7pm
- May 11**
- WT NHS 5K @ Payne Ball Park, 8am
 - Woodburn Lions Donuts @ Hardware lot, 7-11a
 - Woodburn Mother's Day Festival
 - Antwerp Chamber Chocolate Walk, 11a-1p
 - Heritage Lions Donuts @ Hoagland Comm. Park
 - JPHS Spring Tea @ Museum, 1-3pm
- May 17**
- DC Sen. Ctr. Senior Gala @ Eagles of Defiance, 5-9:30p
- May 18**
- Heritage Lions Donuts @ Monroeville Comm. Park

EMMYW 102.7
PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN
Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES



PARKVIEW PSYCHIATRIST NAMED DISTINGUISHED FELLOW BY AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOC.



Dr. Matthew Runyan, section chief of Parkview Physicians Group – Psychiatry and medical director of inpatient services for Parkview Behavioral Health Institute, has been named a Distinguished Fellow with the American Psychiatric Association (APA), the world's leading psychiatric organization.

Runyan is the first Parkview psychiatrist to earn the elite designation from the APA and one of only about 50 physicians in Indiana to receive the title.

Distinguished fellowship is awarded to outstanding psychiatrists who have made significant contributions to the profession in at least five areas: administration, teaching, scientific and scholarly publications, volunteering in mental health and medical activities of social significance, community involvement and/or clinical excellence. It is the highest membership honor bestowed by the APA.

“Dr. Runyan is not just an exceptional physician, working with our patients to address their mental health needs, he’s also a great leader for our entire psychiatry team,” said Dr. Ahsan Mahmood, physician executive for Parkview Behavioral Health Institute. “Being named a Distinguished Fellow is a major accomplishment and it reflects the excellent care and contributions Dr. Runyan

has made to the psychiatric community.”

Runyan received his bachelor’s degree from Anderson University in 2005 and completed his medical degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 2010. He completed a four-year psychiatry residency with the IU School of Medicine before joining Parkview in July 2015. In 2018, he was named section chief of inpatient psychiatry, and in 2020 he became medical director of inpatient psychiatry for Parkview Behavioral Health Institute.

In his role with Parkview, Dr. Runyan treats adult inpatients for conditions including depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, substance abuse and other acute psychiatric conditions. As the inpatient section

chief, he oversees all psychiatric adult, youth, emergency and consultation services.

In the community, Dr. Runyan has served on the board at Erin’s House for Grieving Children in Fort Wayne for the past seven years and volunteers as an expert facilitator for the adult and teen support groups. He received the Volunteer of the Year award from Erin’s House in 2023.

Mental health services are available to patients via three Parkview Physicians Group – Psychiatry locations in Fort Wayne and Wabash, as well as seven Park Center community health centers located in five counties. For more information, visit parkview.com/medical-services/behavioral-health.

STATE PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on April 21, 2024, at approximately 1932 hours at the intersection of County Road K and County Road 17 in Williams County.

Steven Thompson, age 36, of Edon, was traveling westbound in a 2019 Ford Ranger on County Road K. John Matthews, age 72, of Bryan was traveling southbound in a 2016 Chevrolet Equinox on County Road 17. Thompson failed to stop at the stop sign at the intersection and was struck by Matthews’ vehicle. Thompson’s vehicle overturned and came to rest in a creek.

Thompson was pronounced deceased at the scene. Thompson’s passenger, Aaron Laney, age 34, of Montpelier was transported by LifeFlight to Saint Vincent’s in Toledo, Ohio with serious injuries. Matthews was transported by Williams County EMS to Parkview Bryan with serious injuries. Alcohol is suspected as a factor in the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by Williams County Emergency Medical Services, Williams County Coroner, Williams County Sheriff’s Office, Brady Township Fire and Rescue, Worthington’s

Towing and Bodyworks Towing.

The Ohio reminds drivers to wear their seatbelts and to never drive distracted or impaired.

The crash remains under investigation.

SUCCESSFUL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE HELD IN HICKSVILLE

The most recent blood drive, held in Hicksville on April 18, garnered 41 units of the gift of life. Drive coordinator and Red Cross Ambassador Zelda Zimmerman was pleased with the turnout and expressed her gratitude for all who showed up to donate.

In addition to the donors, the drive was supported by the First Church of Christ, site for the event, and members of the Rotary Club for assistance with setup and teardown. Rotary also footed the bill for sandwich ingredients. Alice Breidenbaugh prepared food for the canteen, with cookies provided by Cornerstone Church. Registration was done by Connie Adams and Diane Collins.

Be sure to make appointment to donate at the next blood drive, which will held on June 13.

Sign up online at redcrossblood.org. Blood is urgently needed and can only come from one place - and that is YOU!!!

(Continued from Page 1)

lies have a safe place for their children while they are at work and that reinforces family and Christian values. The building has been renamed the Christian Community Center of Harlan and is used to accommodate other wholesome events like weddings, receptions, a community “garage sale”, auctions, family rentals for birthdays and holiday events, conferences and even inter-denominational basketball and football programs. The Ekklesia uses the gymnasium as its worship facility on Sunday morning.

The first of several planned anniversary events will begin with a kickoff rally featuring the Chitan Family Singers. This multitiered family of five hails from Toronto, Canada. They are known for their sweet harmonies as well as their proficiency in a variety of musical instruments. They have shared stages with

notable gospel greats such as Bill Gaither, Lynda Randle, The Collingsworth Family, and Karen Peck and New River. They range in ages from 15 to 23 and are a wonderful role model for Christian youth. Their musical ministry is wide reaching with the sounds of Southern Gospel, contemporary Christian, as well as Caribbean rhythms, mixed with traditional hymn arrangements to stir the heart and inspire all ages.

The community is invited to join the congregation at 10:00 AM, Sunday, May 5, for their regular services with guest evangelist Rev. Jim Calhoun and the Chitan Family Singers. (Use door #8). This service will be followed by a luncheon served in the cafeteria. At 2:30 PM a concert with the wonderful artistry of the Chitan’s will finish of the day. All are welcome to attend. Everyone is welcomed and encouraged to attend all of the day’s events.

Scripture of the Week

“Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”

— Hebrews 7:25

THE GOOD SHEPHERD



Where would we be without our good shepherd? Jesus Christ our precious Lord and savior, the one who washes and cleanses us from all of our sins. He removes all of our sinful feelings of rejection caused by the residual of sin.

As I travel throughout the land evangelizing and preaching the word of God, often times people approach me after service and hand me envelopes, letters and prayer requests. Most of the time I place them in my briefcase without reading the notes or cards. Last week while looking through my briefcase I stumbled across an unsigned letter. I read and it blessed me so I thought that I would mention some of it in this week’s column.

What happens to a little lamb that is rejected by its mother?

It hangs its head so low it looks as if it is beyond depressed. Every once in a while a ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it. There are a lot of reasons she may do this. Like us we’re often rejected for earthly reasons such as hatred or racism or for reasons we created. If the shepherd tries to return the lamb to the mother it might even kick the baby away, she will never change her mind or heart and accept the lamb as her own.

These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like something is wrong with their little necks. Their spirit is broken. These lambs are called bummer lambs. Unless the shepherd intervenes, the little lamb will die-rejected and alone.

Do you know what the shepherd does? The Shepherd will take the rejected little lamb into his home, hand feed it and keep it warm. He will

wrap it up with blankets and hold it to his chest so the little lamb can hear his heartbeat. Once the lamb is strong enough the shepherd will place it back in the field with the rest of the flock.

The sheep never forgets the shepherd’s love and care the shepherd gave it when it was rejected. When the shepherd calls for the flock, guess which sheep runs first? The sheep that remembered the shepherd’s mercy. The scripture tells us in John 10:4-5: “When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.”

In fact we come to know the Shepherds voice through the many times He has rescued and saved us.

The bummer lamb isn’t loved more, it just knows intimately the one who loves it. It trusts the shepherd because it has experienced love from the shepherd. Many of us were bummer lambs, rejected and broken.

But Jesus is the good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heartbeat. We may be broken but we are deeply loved by the Shepherd who will never leave us or forsake us.

(John 10:9-10) 9 “I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

Thank you for finding these lost souls and bringing them to Jesus.

After I read this my soul cried out THANK YOU GOD FOR ALLOWING US IN AND OUT THROUGH THE GATE AND FINDING GOOD PASTURE AND GIVING US LIFE MORE ABUNDANTLY! AMEN

PEACE AND LOVE,

—Pastor Dwayne

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PIRATES PILLAGE ARCHERS



Freshman Luke Parrett chucks the ball to the batter. Photo by Lions Eye Photography



Sophomore Hampton Rogge launches the ball to the plate. Photo by Lions Eye Photography

Last week started off rough for the Antwerp Archers. They played host to the Continental Pirates on Monday, April 22nd in high school baseball action. Archers only managed 1 run after 7 innings against the Pirates. Final score: 12-1.

Score by Innings:
Continental - 3 3 4 0 0 2

Other Antwerp Pitchers - C.J. Eaton, Kane Hines, Hampton Rogge

Continental Hitters - Jayden Pitney (two doubles, single, three runs), Tim Shepard (two singles, two runs), Ethan Sullivan (single, three runs), Sam Newsome (single, two runs, three RBI), Quinn Tegenkamp (single, run, three RBI), Jackson Bidlack (two singles, three RBI), Rhettik Bowers (single, two RBI), Carson Etter (run)

Antwerp Hitters - Reid Lichty (run), Teeghun Marlin (double), Riley Smith (single, RBI), Hampton Rogge (single), Michael Rohrs (two singles)

JEREMY BEST TO VAN WERT



The Van Wert Athletic Department is pleased to announce that Jeremy Best, a two-time state champion, is set to become the head boys basketball coach at Van Wert High School, subject to board approval.

Best has an impressive 17-year tenure leading the Crestview Knights boys basketball team with a record of 291-110. During this time, he has secured two state championships (in 2014 and 2019), a state runner-up trophy (in 2003), six Northwest Conference titles, as well as 10 sectional, four district, and three regional championships. In addition, Coach Best has been honored as the NWC Coach of the Year five times, District 8 Coach of the Year twice, and State Basketball Coaches Association Coach of the Year twice.

"We are thrilled to introduce Coach Best as the new boys varsity basketball coach at Van Wert High School," said Van Wert Athletic Director Trent Temple. "His track record as a successful leader speaks for itself, and we eagerly anticipate the positive impact he will bring to our program and the bright future that lies ahead."

RAIDERS DOUBLE UP WARRIORS

A nine-run second inning proved to be the difference as Wayne Trace doubled up visiting Woodlan 12-6 in high school softball action Monday night.

The Lady Raiders scored first, plating three runs in the opening frame, before Woodlan picked up one run in the top of the second.

Wayne Trace then took control of the contest with a nine-run second that widened the lead to 12-1 at the end of two innings.

The Lady Warriors plated four runs in the third and picked up another run in the sixth but Wayne Trace went on to record the 12-6 victory.

Ava Zartman singled twice and scored twice for Wayne Trace with Paige Alber posting two singles and a home run while driving in four runs.

HICKSVILLE KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES THE MARRIAGE OF Q & U



Hicksville kindergarten students recently held a wedding ceremony and reception in honor of the letters Q & U as part of their End of Year Reverse Alphabet Countdown. Kindergarten teachers Destiny Hall, Missy Lee, Bri Culler, and Sandi Planned and organized the afternoon ceremony with the Nye family of the Barn On Nye Manor Wedding Venue located outside of Hicksville. "What phonics has joined together, let no letter divide!"

Logen Bland added a double for the Lady Raiders with Tianna Sinn, Katie Anna Baumle, Raegan McGarvey and Allison Schilt getting a single each.

Olivia Zartman, Sinn, Baumle, Allison Noggle, McGarvey, Alber and Schilt all scored runs for the Raiders with Bland, Ava Zartman, Sinn, Olivia Franklin and Schilt picking up a run batted in apiece.

Alyssa Harvey ripped a pair of home runs, scored twice and drove in two runs while Victoria Crozier also finished with a home run, three runs batted in and scored once.

Addison Klotz singled twice, scored once and drove in one run for Woodlan with Olivia Roney, Abby Horn and Mya Jones all singled once. Jones and Lexi Metzger also scored for the Lady Warriors.

PILOTS WIN DEFIANCE COUNTY BATTLE

Visiting Ayersville scored a trio of runs in three of the first four innings to roll to a 10-5 win over host Hicksville Thursday in Green Meadows Conference softball action.

The Lady Pilots plated three runs each in the first, second and fourth innings to take control and cruised the rest of the way for the victory.

Hicksville did get two runs in the first to go along with one run in the fourth and two more in the fifth. The other Lady Pilot ran came in the top of the seventh.

Kendra Waldron led the way for Ayersville, boasting two singles and a home run at the plate while striking out five Hicksville hitters in 4-1/3 innings to get the victory.

Taylor Waldron pitched the final 2-2/3 frames for Ayersville, striking out a pair of Lady Aces' batters.

Kennedy Adams suffered the loss for Hicksville, surrendering a dozen hits, ten runs (two earned) and one walk with four strikeouts.

Jalynn Price posted three singles to lead the way for Hicksville with Lillybell Porter recording a pair of singles. McKenna Rice, Kennedy Adams, Addie Sanders, Cici Keeley and Taylor Slattery all had one hit each for the Lady Aces.

Kendra Waldron ripped two singles and a home run while Mikayla Siera added

three singles for the Lady Pilots. Aerial Brown and Allison Eldridge both finished with two hits while Mabel McGuire and Ava Sigler totaled one hit each.

COUNTY RIVALS MATCH UP IN HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL & BASEBALL

Raiders played host county rivals the Paulding Panthers on Thursday, April 25th. In softball action, it was a low scoring game that had a slow start with the first inning going 0-0. The Lady Panthers cracked through with a run in the 2nd inning which stayed till a rally in the 4th inning where the Lady Raiders grabbed 3 runs & Panthers 1.

5th inning scoring gave the Lady Raiders the edge they needed adding 2 more markers to the scoreboard with Panthers adding 1. Both teams stood strong defense for the remainder of the game, ending with a Raider victory, 5-3. McGarvey pitched the seven innings, giving 5 hits, 3 runs and 10 strikeouts. Panthers pitcher, Mendez pitched the 7 innings allowing 8 hits, 5 runs and taking 2 strikeouts.

Score by the Inning:
Wayne Trace - 0 0 0 3 2 0 0 = 5; 8H, 3E
Paulding - 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 x = 3; 5H, 1E

Hitters of the Game:
Wayne Trace - K Slade (2 doubles), K Baumle (double), T Sinn (double), L Bland (double, 1 run), A Zartman (1 run), P Alber (1 run)

Paulding - O Breier (2 runs), S Leal (1 run)

In baseball action, the Raiders and Panthers also stood ground for a low scoring rival match up. Wayne Trace

Score by Innings:
Wayne Trace - 1 0 0 2 0 0 0 = 3; 9H, 2E
Paulding - 1 0 0 1 0 0 = 2; 5H, 0E

Winning Pitcher - Tucker Antoine (6 innings, 4 hits, 2 runs, 0 earned runs, 5 strikeouts, 5 walks)

Save - Carter Clemens (1 inning, 1 hit, 0 runs, 2 strikeouts, 0 walks)

Losing Pitcher - Greyson Harder (6 innings, 9 hits, 3 runs, 3 earned runs, 5 strikeouts, 0 walks)

Other Paulding Pitcher - Kane Jones (1 inning, 0 hits, 0 runs, 3 strikeouts, 3 walks)

Wayne Trace Hitters - Tucker Antoine (two doubles, two RBI), Breven Anderson (single), Cale Winans (run), Cooper Wenzlick (single), Carter Clemens (single, RBI), Kyle Forrer (single), Tyson Gerber (two singles), Tyler Head (run), Tanner Laukhuf (single, run)

Paulding Hitters - Ian Hutchinson (two runs), Kane Jones (single), Blake Rhonehouse (single), Hunter Coutts (single), Grady Barton (single), Patrick Paholak (double)

LADY WARRIORS ROUT BULLDOGS

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NEW HAVEN TRACK COMPETES AT HERITAGE RELAYS



New Haven Track competed in Heritage Relays and were champions of the day. Photo by Melissa Amstutz



Kevion Mitchell, Aaron Hoffer and Latrevion Bates shared Most Valuable Athlete of the Meet. Photo by Melissa Amstutz

For the 3rd year in a row, the Bulldogs are team champions of the Heritage Relays. Once again it was a complete team effort with the team placing in all but one event.

This meet combines the field events into a 2-person relay by adding up the performances of both field event athletes and placing them as a team. Kevion Mitchell was the 110

Meter Hurdle Champion, while Aaron Hoffer finished right behind him for 2nd place in the event. Relay champions were the 4x100 Meter Relay team of Kevion Mitchell, Latrevion Bates, Aaron Hoffer, and Alex Hoffer; the 4x200 Meter Relay of Latrevion Bates, Aaron Hoffer, Alex Hoffer, and Sedrick Boone; and the Distance Medley team of Orion McGlaughn, Aaron Jackson, Aidan Ackels, and Bryan Garcia. In the Field Event Relays, the team of Will Graves and Luke Beckman won the Pole Vault.

Second place finishers were Bryan Garcia in the 1600 Meter Run and Latrevion Bates in the 100 Meter Dash, the Sprint Medley team of Aaron Hoffer, Kevion Mitchell, Latrevion Bates, and Alex Hoffer; and the Shot Put Relay team of John Bussard and Charles McGrant.

Kevion Mitchell, Aaron Hoffer, and Latrevion Bates shared the Most Valuable Athlete of the Meet by scoring 15 points each respectively.

across Allen County Tuesday night for a non-league high school softball contest at Woodlan with the Lady Warriors scoring in four straight innings to post a 13-1 victory over the Bulldogs.

New Haven opened the game's scoring, getting a two-out single by Ava Low that plated Maddie Jewell for a 1-0 Bulldog advantage.

From there, though, it was all Woodlan.

The Lady Warriors sent ten batters to the plate in the home half of the inning, scoring five times as Woodlan seized a 5-1 lead.

Woodlan added two more runs in the second for a 7-1 lead before plating two more in the third to extend the margin to 9-1.

In the fourth, the Lady Warriors put the game away with a quartet of runs to wrap up the 13-1 victory.

Victoria Crozier and Lillian Riley each had three hits for Woodlan with Mya Jones and Jade Lichty both chipping in a pair of hits. Alyssa Harvey, Olivia Roney, Lexi Metzger, Gabi Koos and Addison Klotz all had one hit for the Lady Warriors.

Jones, Lichty, Crozier and Riley all scored twice for Woodlan with Roney and Jones each driving in two runs.

Abby Horn struck out ten New Haven hitters in picking up the five-inning victory, allowing just four hits, one

earned run and three walks.

Andrea Davila, Ava Low, Emily Wiggins and Maddie Jewell each posted a single for New Haven.

ARCHERS PULL AWAY FROM COUGARS

ANTWERP - In non-league softball action on Monday, host Antwerp used back to back four-run innings to pull away from visiting Van Wert for a 9-4 victory over the Cougars.

Elle Clem pitched the Archers to the victory, tossing a complete game surrendering eight hits, four earned runs and two walks with nine strikeouts.

The blue and white scored the game's first run in the bottom of the second inning before Van Wert answered with a single run in the top of the third to knot the game at 1-1.

Antwerp plated four runs in the home half of the third in opening a 5-1 advantage but the Cougars answered with three runs in the fourth to close within 5-4.

However, the Lady Archers again responded with a four-run outburst in the bottom of the fourth to wrap up the scoring in the 9-4 victory.

Caydence Shull had a triple and a home run for Antwerp while scoring twice and driving in three runs with Emma Townley posting a single and a double to go along with scoring two runs.

Caroline Rohrs doubled,

scored once and drove in two runs for the Lady Archers with Clem, Raelynn Zuber and Maddy Peters picking up a single each. Clem and Aliyah Friend both scored twice for the blue and white while Zuber drove in two runs and Maylynn Carnahan picked up a run batted in.

Alexis Pangle had a single and a double for Van Wert with two runs batted in while Aubrey Wollet singled, doubled, scored twice and drove in one run. Emma Kennedy, Kaitlynn Bear, Emma West and Bella Wise all had singles for the Lady Cougars.

PARKWAY ROLLS OVER PAULDING

PAULDING - The Parkway high school softball team scored in six of seven innings as the Mercer County version of the Panthers cruised to a 14-2 win over Paulding Monday in non-league action.

Parkway plated two runs each in the first, third and fifth innings while adding four in the fourth and three in the seventh to cruise to the victory. The Mercer County squad also picked up a single run in the sixth.

Paulding plated one run each in the fifth and sixth innings.

Emmery Temple led Parkway at the plate, recording a single, double and triple while scoring three times and driving in two runs. Bryn Schoenleben singled twice and picked

up a run batted in with Abbi Taylor singling twice and driving in two runs. Adria Miller singled, doubled, scored twice and added a run batted in while Ellie Prichard doubled twice, scored once and recorded two runs batted in.

Meg Henkle and Meah Suzuki both doubled for the Mercer County squad with Paige Stephenson and Avery White recording a single apiece. Henkle also scored three times for Parkway with Stephenson touching home plate twice.

Maci Kauser had two singles and drove in one run for Paulding while Jalyn Klopfenstein singled and doubled while scoring once. Cadence Schwab, Mariah Klopfenstein and Samantha Leal all finished with a single for the maroon and white while Brooklyn Bakle posted a triple.

Riley Stork took the loss on the mound for Paulding, tossing four innings giving up six hits, ten runs (six earned) and seven walks. Jalyn Klopfenstein pitched the final three frames, allowing nine hits, four earned runs and one walk.

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES 4/15/24

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Defiance County Commissioners' Conference Room. President Kern called the meeting to order. Also present were Commissioners Dana Phipps and Mick Pocratsky; HR Coordinator, Emily Meyer; and Clerk, Liz Stuart.

The commissioners met in general session to approve and sign various resolutions, contracts, and documents. The commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.

The commissioners met with Engineer Warren Schlatter for a monthly update. He gave an update on the status of the Mansfield Road bridge replacement, which has been delayed due to weather conditions.

The Investment Advisory Committee of Vickie Myers (Defiance County Treasurer), Warren Schlatter (Defiance County Engineer), Amy Galbraith (Defiance County Clerk of Courts) and the Commissioners met for the 2024 First Quarter Investment Advisory Meeting. Ryan Nelson of Redtree Investment Group also attended the meeting. The Defiance County Investment Portfolio, Landfill Closure Portfolio and Post Closure Portfolio were approved.

The Commissioners met with Economic Development Executive Director Erika Willitzer for a monthly update. She is working with several housing developers to source land for new housing to be built throughout the County.

The Board met with Allie Redmond, Andy Weisgerber, and Darby Naton to discuss the County's 2024 renewal of their CORSA insurance.

The Commissioners met with Mikayla Mueller from Maumee Valley Planning Organization for an update on the list for CDBG and GDIS projects. The projects will be chosen at the upcoming hearing at 10:30am on April 29.

The Commissioners met with Defiance City Council member Jill Krutsch to discuss the Commissioners being involved with an art show she is helping to organize for September and October of this year. The Commissioners will be presenting an award to their choice of artist.

TOUGH LOSS FOR LADY ARCHERS



Senior Emma Townley takes a swing at the ball. Photo by Lions Eye Photography



Senior Meagan Pendergrast heaves the ball in from the outfield. Photo by Lions Eye Photography

Lady Locomotives from Montpelier traveled to Archer country on Monday April 22nd for a battle at the mound. It was a runaway game for Montpelier ending after 5 innings as the Lady Archers just couldn't catch them. Final score: 11-0. Elle Clem pitched 4 of the innings earning 7 strikeouts and Madison Schmidt came in as the relief pitcher earning herself 1 strikeouts.

Score by Innings: Montpelier - 1 2 1 2 5 = 11; 9H, 1E
Antwerp - 0 0 0 0 0 = 0; 0H, 7E

Winning Pitcher - Madelyn Hopper (5 innings, 0 hits, 0 runs, 13 strikeouts, 1

walk)
Losing Pitcher - Elle Clem (4 innings, 5 hits, 6 runs, 2 earned runs, 7 strikeouts, 1 walk)

Other Antwerp Pitcher - Madison Schmidt (1 inning, 4 hits, 5 runs, 0 earned runs, 1 strikeout, 0 walks)

Montpelier Hitters - Lyla Mahan (two singles, two runs), Neriah Thorp (single, run), Kelsie Bumb (single, home run, run, two RBI), Madelyn Hopper (double, RBI), Jada Uribes (run), Lillian Mahan (two singles, two runs), Addison Dick (run, two RBI), Henna Beck (single, two runs, RBI), Maggie Jacob (run)

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REVIEW: "GLADYS IN WONDERLAND" OFF STAGE PRODUCTIONS



By: Perry Luhn

One of the most interesting themes for stage plays, is the idea of death. Of course, this is the thing that everyone fears, and I wouldn't think they would be interested in an investigation of the process. But that hasn't stopped playwrights. For thousands of years comedies, and dramas, about the afterlife have been popular. The idea that life exists, after this life, is an easy sell for those writing plays or stories. We're curious. Last night, I got to see one that figured to be like this. I attended the opening of this story, at Vantage Career Center provided by long-time dinner theatre group, Off Stage Productions.

"Gladys in Wonderland" is another of those efforts which pokes fun at death. But this is not about post-life. It's more about what happens, or, in this case, appears to happen, just before one's demise. Gladys is an 87-year-old woman, whose time has apparently come. Her guide into the next world is a nattily dressed young man named Mort. This fellow knocks on the door of Gladys' home and succinctly informs her that he is here to take her. Where, he's not exactly saying. This surprises and shocks her, of course, and she puts her foot down, refusing to leave. She's not ready, yet. Nearly the entire rest of the story is a series of visits from folks Mort brings, thinking she'd rather do without. Though he is perturbed at her stubbornness, Mort is as patient as he can possibly be, although that becomes more difficult as time goes by. Gladys has family that worry about her, possibly to extreme. Mort shows her these things, and even gives her a visit to a nursing home, to show her just how much

fun that would be.

The two big stars of this story are Stephanie Wagner as Gladys, and Travis Nihiser, as Mort. Wagner gives us a woman who can be affable, confused, annoyed, and intransigent. Sometimes all in one short scene. She clearly identifies with Gladys and makes her likeable to the audience. Nihiser cannot, for the most part, give us much emotion. This character remains mostly calm, and solid. But he gives us great laugh lines, which he knows how to deliver. The audience loved these two together.

Sparkling performances abounded from the others involved in Gladys' life. And death. Emily Smith, as daughter Doris, served as a narrator-of-sorts for some of the proceedings. Her character is worried, and sad. She doesn't get a lot of laughs, but there are always characters in these types of shows who don't. Smith gave us her version of the story, without being obtrusive. It was a sweet performance from an actress who has maybe less experience than some of the others.

The biggest over the top performance came from long time Van Wert stalwart, Ed Eichler. As Gladys' brother, Frank, Eichler is loud, self-centered, and annoying to his sister. Eichler knows how to do this, with aplomb. And he showed me a different side to him than I had seen previously. Not a lengthy performance, but a memorable one.

First rate portrayals, some with more than one role, were delivered from some veteran talents, and some newer to the stage.

Lisa Eichler, Yessenia Lau, Jamie Sons-Beard, Matt Rau, and Dolores Foreman, each gave us someone with that dif-

ferent edge. Every one of them delivered a piece of the puzzle which was necessary for its completion. The ensemble was cohesive, well blocked, and understandable. Some of the credit for all of this must go to Daniel Sanderson, who was the play's director. I am told this is Mr. Sanderson's first effort at directing. I believe I will give him high marks for this experience. Aside from a couple of very small glitches with the sound system, those at the back of the room could still understand what was happening. It was a nice night of theatre.

The good news about this fun with death, is that you still have a chance to go and see it. If you call 419-605-6708 you can reserve your tickets for both the dinner and this cute play. I believe there are still performances tonight, tomorrow, and three times next week. This should give you a chance to see what Off Stage Productions can accomplish. You won't be disappointed.

Call the box office number 419-605-6708 to reserve your tables or seats! Box office hours: Monday through Saturday - Noon until 6:00 PM, no Sunday calls please. Please make reservations for Dinner Shows by Thursday prior to the show date. All performances are held at in the Commons at Vantage Career Center, 818 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert, Ohio. Enter door 13 off the back parking lot where plenty of parking is available

"Gladys in Wonderland"

By Rosemary Frisino Toohey

Produced by special arrangement with Playscripts, Inc.

Show dates are April 19, 20, 21 and 26, 27 & 28, 2024. Saturday and Sunday performances will be dinner theatre shows. For Saturday performances, doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m.. For Sunday matinee performances, doors will open at 12:30 p.m., dinner at 1:00 p.m. and show at 2:00 p.m.

HORN DOMINATES TIGERS

Woodlan pitcher Abby Horn struck out ten while giving up just three hits and a walk in tossing a complete-game shutout as the Lady Warriors cruised over Bluffton 7-0 in high school softball play Thursday.

Horn finished the contest with 73 strikes thrown out of 107 pitches in lifting the Lady Warriors to 9-2 on the season.

Addison Klotz had a single, double and home run to lead the Woodlan offense, scoring twice and driving in two runs. Mya Jones added two singles and a run scored for the Lady Warriors with Victoria Crozier posting three runs batted in and singling once.

Lexi Metzger, Jade Lichty and Lillian Riley all singled as well for Woodlan while Metzger, Lichty, Jones and Olivia Roney scored once apiece. Lichty picked up a run batted in as well for the Lady Warriors.

Tressa Renner finished with two singles for Bluffton and Konley Ault had one single.

LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Weed & Feed Products

Hopefully warmer weather

PAYNE ELEMENTARY MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Students of the month earned an "Owl be Responsible" certificate for showing responsibility during the month of March. These students displayed the character trait of responsibility in many aspects of their school day. Thank you for your effort. Front Row: Chase Seibert, Ella Carnahan, Sawyer Stoller, Teresa Monterroso, Holden Mullins. Second Row: Brady Cox, Jerica Gonzales, Andrew Cox, Elise Steffen, Aubree Lamb, Brezlyn Strickler. Back Row: Krandon Crites, Aubrey Fairley, Shawn Bradford, Callen Stoller, Piper Mills, Avery Welch, Zoey Kraegel, Antonia Negrete-Pawoli. Not pictured: Layne Delgado.

LOCAL 5K ORGANIZATION RECEIVES DONATION



Congratulations to One Step at a Time 5k Run/Walk for recently receiving a \$1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. This money was used for the suicide prevention events that were held all throughout this

past week, along side Team Kevins. Pictured receiving the grant (l-r) is Sherri Hammersmith - Founder of One Step at a Time and Stacy McCarty - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator.

or early morning dew is ideal. Additionally if it's possible, apply the granular weed & feed to a freshly cut lawn. If within 24 hours of mowing, it will help the granules of nutrients and weed control absorb in the fresh cuts on grass and weeds alike. After application, avoid foot traffic on the lawn and hope the weatherman was right in predicting no rainstorms from 24 to 48 hours. The heavy rain and foot traffic with the 24 to 48 hour window could dislodge the granules and make the

weed control less effective.

The timing of post-emergent weed control application is important if the lawn is to get the maximum benefit from the product. As a general rule, the application should be made when the weeds are actively growing. Application for the most northern part of the U.S. is recommended in mid- to late-spring. For our area this means an application should be made sometime in late April or early May when air temperatures are between 60-

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding, Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill, VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

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

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PC WORKSHOP SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Jeremy Thompson, Charles Walker, and Shenina Mesker (PC Workshop) as the guest speakers at the April 25, 2024, club meeting. They came at the invitation of Michelle Stahl (CPA, BRSW).

Jeremy, Charles and Shenina spoke to the Kiwanians about the film that they made for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge which is an inspiring initiative that encourages filmmakers to create and produce short films that highlight disability in its many forms.

LYNNORA LEVELED UP TO A TITLE!

Four year old Lynnora was crowned as Totally Nostalgic



Supreme (one of the higher titles of pageant) at the recent Barbie vs Lisa Frank Pageant that took place in Whitehouse, Ohio on April 20, 2024. She also earned the People's Choice Award, Best Dressed, and Prestige VIP. Lynnora earned a total of four crowns and a 6 foot trophy. She had a total of 315.9 points (just 5 points shy of the highest score of the pageant out of 24 contestants!). Over 1000 items were collected for the Fayette Regional Humane Society.

Lynnora is coached by Sydney Gilbert from Crowned to Perfection who was also Miss MAG (Miss American Girl) Ohio. They are working on her next move within Pageantry which will be bigger and better! Her parents are Brittany Kutzli

(Antwerp, OH) and Tyler Rohrs (Paulding, OH), and grandparents are Thomas Rothenbuhler and Amy Kutzi (both of Antwerp, OH), and Jon and Darla Rohrs (Paulding, OH).

ACDC NEEDS ENTRIES FOR 2024 ANTWERP DAYS PARADE

The A.C.D.C would like to invite you to participate in this year's Antwerp Days Parade. The parade is on Saturday, June 1st, 2024, at 10:00 AM in downtown Antwerp, Ohio.

Line up starts at 8:45 AM at the Antwerp School, we ask that everyone please be completely lined up and ready by 9:45. The parade travels through town from the school, down canal street on to Main Street and will end at the Antwerp Manor Assisted Living facility. There will be an area in front of the announcers' stand (SR 49 and CR 424) to perform and have your pictures taken if you wish. The theme this year for the parade is "Summer Fun".

Promote your business, group, team, bank, club, church, or organization to the town and have some fun too! There is no entry fee to participate - just be a part of the celebration! For questions or to obtain a Parade entry form, call Dustin Sensabaugh at 419-506-0576 or email at sensabdm@airproducts.com.

Please have all forms returned by Friday May 24, 2024.

Please join us after the parade for a day of Food, Fun, and Entertainment downtown Antwerp from 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

PAULDING FFA CHAPTER ANNUAL PLANT FUNDRAISER



Pictured here are 4 Paulding FFA greenhouse students with some blooming flowers they grew that will be available (l-r) Lucy Breier, Riley Stork, Jocelynn Parrett and Maci Kauser.

By: Addison Hunt, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Chapter will kick off its annual plant event on April 26th at the FFA greenhouse located on Caroline Street. The greenhouse is filled with a wide variety of plants consisting of flowers, vegetables, herbs, hanging baskets, decorative plants, and more. The students in the Greenhouse class at Paulding High School have been working hard and preparing the greenhouse for this event since February. Students have been cleaning high and low, and getting their hands dirty planting flowers in a green-

house. The Paulding FFA Chapter would greatly appreciate your support at this year's plant event. Our chapter looks forward to seeing our community support our students and the Paulding FFA Chapter at this yearly sale. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Staci Miller, Ag Education teacher at 419-399-4656 Ext. 1170. Please watch our Facebook page Paulding FFA Chapter for more information. Thank you in advance for your support of the program!

The dates for the plant event will be as follows:

- Friday April 26th 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday April 27th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Friday May 3rd 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday May 4th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Friday May 10th 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday May 11th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Friday May 17th 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday May 18th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Friday May 24th 12:00-4:00 p.m.
- Saturday May 25th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

SPRING FUN IN STORE AT JOHNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Parents and caregivers can find free fun for kids in May at Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., Hicksville.

Spring Storytime takes place at the library on Wednesdays (May 1, 8, & 15) at 10:30 a.m., including a special "Read to a Guinea Pig" session on May 15. No registration is needed. In addition, visit the library for these other programs and events:

May 4, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Comic Book Giveaway: Stop by the library during open hours and get a free comic book, while supplies last.

May 20, 5:00 p.m., Pokémon Party: Visit the library for a Pokémon snatch-and-catch game, scavenger hunt, Lego building, and more.

For adult patrons, the Hicksville Beautification Committee will host a special three-class series, "Let's Talk Plants!" at the library on May 7, 14, and 21 at 5:00 p.m. Learn all about plant care, including how to divide your plants into new starts.

To see more, including the library's summer programming, visit defiancelibrary.org/calendar.

NSCC FORGES TEACHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP WITH SAINT FRANCIS UNIVERSITY

Northwest State Community College (NSCC) announces a partnership with the University of Saint Francis (Fort Wayne, Indiana).

In the new articulation agreement, NSCC students who complete associate degrees in Early Childhood Development or Applied Science-Paraprofessional Education will be accepted with junior-year status into the Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies program in the Saint Francis Division of Teacher Education. Earning a bachelor's degree will then allow those students to enter the Transition to Teaching or master's level program to pursue teacher licensure. A total of 62 or 63 credits will transfer toward the 120 required credit hours for the Saint Francis bachelor's degree.

In addition to our Archbold campus, Northwest State Community College is opening a full-service campus in Van Wert, Ohio in the spring of 2025, less than 45 minutes from Saint Francis' campus.

"NSCC is excited to partner with Saint Francis to improve the education field by providing high-quality

teacher candidates in our communities. NSCC will provide learners with hands-on field experience as well as a wealth of classroom knowledge to take with them to Saint Francis," said Amy Thomas, NSCC education faculty and coordinator of ODE Associate Licensure Programs.

NSCC is excited to partner with Saint Francis to improve the education field by providing high quality teacher candidates in our communities. "

Dr. Todd Hernandez, president of Northwest State Community College, added, "Northwest State is excited to partner with Saint Francis to create additional access for our students. The ability for our graduates to easily transfer to a four-year partner to continue their education is very mission centric for us by improving lives and strengthening communities."

This partnership will officially begin on August 1, 2024.

This agreement follows others with four-year universities in Indiana (Purdue Fort Wayne, Indiana Tech) along with many here in Ohio, including Defiance College, Bowling Green State University, and Miami University, to name a few.

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