

The

WESTBEND NEWS

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VOLUME 20 – ISSUE 50

Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

MUSEUM NAMES FESTIVAL OF TREES WINNERS



The group Latty Friends & Neighbors decorated the Latty Depot area in the museum's Barn 2. Festival of Trees visitors voted the group's display as favorite in the adult category.

The Paulding County History Museum has named the winners of its recent Festival of Trees and the dates and theme for next year's event.

The annual Festival of Trees ran Nov. 8-16 with nearly 2,900 people attending.

The Bargain Bin won the prize for the tree most closely following the theme, "Let's

Trim the Tree!" Their spectacular "purple tree" was entirely decorated in shades of purple and violet with splashes of white. They donated the ornaments to sell to the highest bidder in the silent auction.

The trees that won for most "votes" for favorite tree

(Continued on Page 6)

LOOK FOR THE PENGUIN AND SEND YOUR LETTER TO SANTA

Have you been a good girl or boy this year? Do you deserve something special this year? The Reindeer are in training and the Elves are busy building toys and getting Santa's sleigh ready so now is your chance to write your letter to Santa.

It's safe to say that Santa is

very busy this time of year, and the sooner kids get their letters or wish lists to him, the better. With less than a month left until Christmas, Santa Claus is asking kids to send their letters soon!

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is helping Santa this year by collecting letters and forwarding them to the North Pole, so get those letters written and drop them off at Santa's mailbox next to the

COMMUNITY RALLIES AROUND LOCAL FAMILY FACING MEDICAL CHALLENGES



The Paulding community is set to come together on Saturday, December 14, 2024, to support Tiffany and Eric Martinez, a local couple grappling with severe health issues, through a benefit event that promises compassion, camaraderie, and a host of family-friendly activities.

Tiffany Martinez has been

Town Hall! Don't forget to include your return address so Santa can get back to you!

LOOK FOR THE PENGUIN!!

MANDALE CHURCH HOSTS 7TH ANNUAL CRAFT SHOW FOR A CAUSE

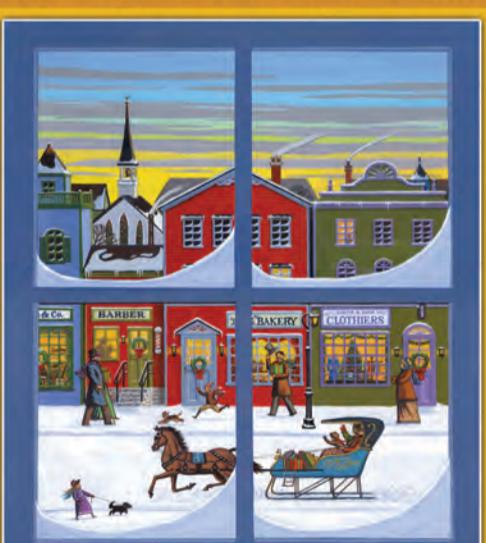
Mandale, Ohio – The holiday season is the perfect time to shop local, give back, and enjoy festive fun. On Saturday, December 14, 2024, the Mandale Church will hold its 7th Annual Craft Show from 9 AM to 2 PM at 2820 State Route 66 in Mandale, Ohio. This much-anticipated event is a great opportunity to find unique gifts, enjoy delicious food, and support an important cause.

The craft show will feature

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 6)

It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas!



Our outlook this season is one of good cheer. As we recall the good folks that we've served this year. Take it from our bright point of view.

Let your customers, clients, friends & family know how much you appreciate them.

Put a Christmas ad in West Bend News in our December 23rd edition.

Bring your own Christmas ad design or let us design it for you!

Deadline Christmas ads is December 19th @ 5pm



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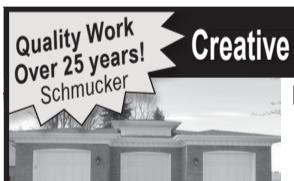
I Cor. 10:31 - whatever you do,
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H2O Water Store	11
Hicksville Public Hearing	8
Hicksville Village Pool Bids	8
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Richardson at Pres Church	2
Ron Burt Left Turn	8
Schmucker Construction	1
Schrader Auction	10
TAZ Construction	1
United Edge Young Auction	10
Woodburn Main Street	12

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

Community Calendar

MON & WED

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

December 9-13, 16-18

• Christmas @ The Courthouse, Paulding, 8a-4:30p, 8-10a

December 11

• Christmas @ The Huber, Hicksville, 7pm

December 12

• Santa Claus @ Oakwood Fire Station, 6-8pm

December 13

• Hicksville School Holiday Concert @ The Huber, 7pm
• Auditions for Ohio Has Talent! 2025 in Van Wert

December 14

• Visit w/Santa in Woodburn, 11am
• Allen Co. 200th year Monument Ribbon Cutting @ Woodburn Clock Tower, 10a
• Breakfast w/Santa @ Grover Hill VFW, 9-11am
• Craft Show @ Mandale Church, 9a-2p
• Christmas Spectacular: Five Star Dance Studio @ Huber, 2p & 6p
• Santa is Coming to Paulding Eagles, 11am

December 15

• Siberian Solstice @ Huber Opera House, Hicksville, 7p

December 17

• PC Library Board meeting @ Paulding Library, 5:30pm

WB MY 102.7

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

OBITUARIES

PAYNE, OH:
Dean A. Miller, 86, of Payne, Ohio passed away at home on Saturday, November 30, 2024. ARR. BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME, 5761 SR 500, PAYNE, OHIO

EMBRACING BOLD PRAYER AND STEADFAST FAITH IN TIMES OF APOSTASY

In a compelling sermon at Paulding's First Presbyterian Church focused on the power of prayer and unwavering faith, pastor Dwayne Richardson emphasizes the crucial need for spiritual boldness in an era marked by widespread apostasy. Highlighting the challenges faced by believers today, the sermon stresses the importance of not shying away from expressing one's faith openly and robustly.

The preacher draws on personal experiences and biblical stories to encourage the congregation to embrace a life of prayer—anytime, anywhere. He mentions past experiences with the House of Love, where members would openly pray from the heart, addressing their personal struggles and seeking divine intervention in a straightforward manner. This authentic approach to prayer is portrayed as essential to connecting with God and receiving his blessings.

The sermon also revisits the Advent season, focusing on the figures of Simeon and Anna from the Gospel of Luke. These devout individuals are celebrated for their unwavering hope and continuous prayer, which allowed them to witness the arrival of Christ. Their example is used to illustrate how constant engagement with scripture and prayer can prepare believers to recognize and welcome God's interventions in their lives.

Moreover, Richardson passionately talks about the need for believers to be prepared for Christ's second coming, urging them to live in a state of readiness and expectation. By maintaining a close relationship with God through prayer and scripture study, believers can navigate the challenges of life with assurance and peace.

In conclusion, the sermon calls for a proactive and committed approach to faith, where prayer is sincere and continuous, and the study of scripture is diligent and reflective.

DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$15,000 GRANT FOR DREAM CENTER DEVELOPMENT



Pictured representing the grant are (L to R) Joesph Blake - Workforce Student, Dylan Markle - Workforce Student, Rita Kissner - DAF Grants Committee Member, Justin Fausnight - Workforce Student and Dez Silva - Program Director.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) has announced a \$15,000 grant to support the creation of a youth-friendly space at the Defiance Dream Center.

This project, part of DAF's fall 2024 grant cycle, aims to foster community development and provide a safe and

welcoming environment for young people.

The funding will contribute to the Workforce Development and Community Revitalization Initiative. The Dream Center plans to use this grant to establish an area where youth can gather, learn, and grow, reinforcing DAF's

mission to make a meaningful impact within the community.

This grant highlights DAF's dedication to enhancing the quality of life in Defiance and surrounding areas, further solidifying its role as a key supporter of local initiatives.

tive. This, the messenger asserts, will equip believers with the strength and conviction to face the modern world's trials while awaiting the fulfillment of God's ultimate promise—the return of Christ.

JOHN PAULDING VFW POST 587 CELEBRATES 90 YEARS

John Paulding VFW Post 587 was chartered on December 12, 1934. The original charter lists the names of fifty-one local veterans who founded the Post.

These charter members were World War One Veterans, and the memories of that terrible war would be still very fresh in their minds.

The United States casualties in World War One consisted of 116,708 military deaths, 204,002 wounded and 4,500 MIA's. Some of the charter members may have known some of these casualties.

1934 was a bleak year that was filled with many challenging issues, the United States was amid the great economic depression, plus the seeds for the second world war were being sown by Germany and Japan.

For these charter members, the founding of John Paulding VFW Post 587 may have been one of the few positive events of the year.

In the years following the

post's founding, the United States military would fight in World War Two, Korea, Vietnam, Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan and many other conflicts and operations. Through it all, VFW Post 587 was there to welcome home and to support the veterans of those wars and conflicts.

John Paulding VFW Post 587 members are very involved in our community supporting area schools, community events, veterans services, LifeWise Academy, Paulding Food Pantry, local law enforcement and local scouting programs. It is our intention to continue serving our community for years to come.

In honor of the original fifty-one charter members of 1934, we invite all wartime veterans to join our post. We will pay your first years dues or pay the first \$100 towards your life-time membership.

Please stop by the post for an application or call 4119-399-3071 and ask for Dan Wilder or John Daeger.

For those who answered the call to serve and defend our nation's ideals, we salute you.

PARKVIEW BRYAN HOSPITAL RECEIVES PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR RURAL HEALTHCARE

In observance of National Rural Health Day, Parkview Bryan Hospital has earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in quality from The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

The Performance Leader-

ship Awards recognize top quartile performance among rural hospitals in three categories: quality, outcomes and/or patient perspective. This is the second consecutive year Parkview Bryan Hospital has been recognized by The Chartis Center since joining the system in October 2024.

"At Parkview Bryan Hospital, we're proud to offer high-quality care to our Ohio patients," said Chad Tinkel, market president, Parkview Health Ohio. "Our co-workers embody the Parkview spirit of providing an excellent experience to every person, every day, and with the full support of the system behind us, we're able to deliver on that mission. Being honored by The Chartis Center once again for our performance is validation of the dedicated work we put in to serving our patients."

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

Parkview Bryan Hospital was not the only facility recognized by The Chartis Center this year, as Parkview LaGrange Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital were also listed in the quality category.

magical day for children and families alike. Don't miss the chance to meet Santa and capture the holiday spirit!

This community-centered event is a wonderful way to get into the holiday mood, shop for thoughtful gifts, and contribute to a worthy cause. Mark your calendars and join the Mandale Church for a day of giving, fellowship, and holiday cheer.

For more information, contact the Mandale Church directly (or check out the ad on page 12!). See you there!

Santa Claus will make a special appearance between 11 AM and 1 PM, making it a

Scripture of the Week

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

— Luke 1:26-28

REBUILDING MY SELF-ESTEEM



I am a new creature predestined for greatness. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

I am a child of God fully accepted by the Father (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:6)

God loves me regardless of how I perform and His love toward me never runs out. (Jeremiah 31:3)

My conscience is purged from dead works; I am forgiven and will not be tormented by my past errors. (Hebrews 9:14)

I am a giver and God is causing all grace and every favor to come to me in abundance. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

I have authority over the devil; demons are subject to me through the Name of Jesus (Luke 10:17)

Abundance is God's will for me and I will not settle for less. (John 10:10)

I am healed; sickness does not have dominion over my body (1 Peter 2:24)

God is on my side; I will not fear (Psalm 118:6)

The Holy Spirit is my Helper; I am never alone; I have the peace of God. (John 14:18; Philippians 4:7)

I am blessed with all spiritual blessings; things are happening for my good even as I speak. (Ephesians 1:3)

What I see now is only temporary and subject to change (2 Corinthians 4:18)

I have the wisdom of God; I hear the Father's voice and the voice of a stranger I will not follow (John 10:3-5)

I am set in the Body of Christ and I know that I am valuable and significant to the work of God and His plan in the earth. (2 Corinthians 12:20-25; Ephesians 4:11, 12)

I choose not to be offended and I am delivered out of all afflictions and persecutions (Matthew 5:10-12)

Thank you, Father, I am free from every evil plot and scheme of the enemy. I praise You that the joy of the Lord is my strength and stronghold. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Peace and Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

to the wishes of children.

Every child who attends will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win a special gift, ensuring the magic of the season touches everyone present.

This festive gathering is brought to the community by the efforts of the Paulding Lions Club, Paulding Eagles Lodge, Eagles Ladies Auxiliary, and Paulding Kiwanis. These organizations have worked together to bring smiles and create lasting memories for local families.

For more information about the event, feel free to contact the organizers at 419-399-2255.

Pastor Dwayne Richardson

will be preaching at Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church at 10:15am

Dec 15th 22nd
24th and 29th

Please come join us for a wonderful service.

Visit YouTube channel, Predest Richardson

Peace & Love,

— Pastor Dwayne Richardson



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VISIT WITH DR. LUKE

The simple Christmas Story. You have heard it hundreds of times, but it's new every time you hear it. Seems like every time you read the Bible you see something new. I'm not a scholar, I can simply read. I want to point out that this story actually happened. It is an historical fact. Luke had talked to many eye witnesses, and it took place when Herod was King of Judea.

At this time there lived in Nazareth a young virgin by the name of Mary, and she was engaged to a man named Joseph. When Elizabeth was 6 months pregnant, the angel Gabriel was sent to appear to Mary. "Thou art highly favored, blessed art thou among women. You will have a son and you will name him Jesus." "How can this be, because I have not known any man?"

"The Holy Ghost will come upon you." (The son of God was no mere man.) "Be it unto me according to thy word." Mary immediately left to tell her cousin Elizabeth who was in her sixth month of pregnancy. When Mary arrived and spoke to Elizabeth, Elizabeth's babe jumped in her womb. (It is interesting Google says this trip was approximately 87 MI. Via route 65 would take 1 hour and 48 minutes. It probably took several days or perhaps a week. Where would you sleep how did you take your food, or your donkey's food.)

In closing comments, Lt. Gov. Trafford asked all members to encourage and help interested historical minded persons who are inquiring about this organization to help increase our membership.

A Thanksgiving dinner was served after the program.

The "Silver Books" (biographical books on the Pilgrims) are being placed in certain libraries. The Bryan, Ohio and other larger libraries may have the full sets that are available for research. Member, Judy Rand, has been in charge of these placements locally. These books can be purchased online, also.

Attending from Paulding Co. was member, Caroline Longardner, who is a 35 year member of the Toledo Mayflower Society. She is descended thru GEORGE SOULE - Mayflower Pilgrim. This was thru her Mother's line (Kathryn Irene Soule

When Elizabeth's son was born the people wanted to name him Zachariah, however, Zachariah said his name is John." Then Zachariah's tongue was loosed and he could speak. Luke concludes by saying that John grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and lived in the desert until he began his ministry.

James Neuhauser

Make sure to bring your loved ones and capture the magic of Christmas with Santa Claus at the Paulding Eagles Lodge!

TOLEDO MAYFLOWER SOCIETY MEETS

By: Caroline Longardner, Member

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Ohio met Sat. Nov. 16, 2024 at 12 noon in Toledo, Ohio at the Toledo Ohio Living Swan

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Dec 12, 9a - 2p – Tupperware

Dec 17, 9a - 2p – Scentsy

Dec 18, 10a - 2:30p – Heaven's Harmony Gifts

Dec 19, 9a - 3p – Riley's Handmade Cards



Tim Hines, board president and Cindy Diehl, new board member effective January 1, 2025.

EACS' BOARD MEMBERS SERVE COMMUNITY AS RED KETTLE BELL-RINGERS

On December 9-17, 2024, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. the East Allen County Schools board members will serve as Red Kettle Bell Ringers at Kroger's in New Haven (821 Lincoln

given by member Judy Rand. Scholarship Program updates were given by immediate Past Lt. Gov. Susan Fisher and present Scholarship -Chairman. Scholarship information was handed out and discussed.

The program was "TWO INTRIGUING EARLY AMERICANS YOU SHOULD KNOW" by AUTHOR Frank Kuron who comes from the Toledo area and has written extensively on Tecumseh and other American Indians and historical persons of that era.

In closing comments, Lt. Gov. Trafford asked all members to encourage and help interested historical minded persons who are inquiring about this organization to help increase our membership.

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(Continued from Page 1)

ary 2024. His condition requires frequent treatments at the Cleveland Clinic, adding to the family's mounting medical expenses.

The benefit, organized by friends and family, will be held at the Paulding VFW located at 214 N Water Street from 2:00 PM until evening. The event will feature a spaghetti dinner, available for a donation, and a variety of activities designed to raise funds and spirits. Attendees can look forward to a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction, music from a DJ, and a bake sale.

The Martinez family, including their two children, 17-

18 Hwy W.). Tim Hines, board president said, "We don't only serve our students and families, but we serve the community. This is another way for us to show we care and want to see everyone's needs met especially during this holiday season."

Wells b. 2Dec1913 Lapeer Co. Mich.). Caroline's guest for the meeting was Joe LaFountain.

For more information on the Society of the Mayflower Descendants contact your local library or our top Toledo Colony Officer: Edmond Trafford at 419-474-6071 (He is the Lt. Gov.; An Elder; and on the State Board of Assistants).

ANTWERP VILLAGE ZONING APPROVES AND DENIES CUPS

The Antwerp Village Board of Zoning Appeals met on Tuesday, December 3 in a session addressing a variety of zoning and community-related issues, including a conditional use permit (CUPs) for a solar installation and a controversial home-based resale business. Here's a summary of the proceedings:

Solar Installation Secures Zoning Approval

Nathan Wagner, representing a solar installation project at Antwerp Local School, presented a case to obtain a conditional use permit retroactively. Wagner explained that the installation, already operational for several years, was discovered to lack appropriate zoning approval during a financing transaction.

Village Zoning Inspector Gabe Oberlin confirmed that while permits for construction and state approvals were in order, the original installation bypassed the zoning

year-old Ava and 12-year-old Noah, have expressed profound gratitude for the outpouring of support from the community. "This event is not just about the financial support, which is critical, but also about feeling the strength and love of our community during this tough time," said Tiffany.

All proceeds from the event will directly support Tiffany and Eric as they navigate their health challenges, ensuring they can focus on recovery and caregiving rather than financial stress.

Community members are encouraged to attend, contribute, and stand with the Martinez family in their time of need.

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS

at 5pm for the following issue.

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HERITAGE LIONS DONATE \$500 TO HIGH SCHOOL FOR CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE

ident Jack Clear and Lion member Dan Harkless to Principal Rebecca Christensen. Principal Christensen expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the Lions' commitment to helping the community.

This act of kindness highlights the Lions' dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of local families.

process. The council agreed to rectify this oversight, approving the conditional use permit unanimously. Wagner expressed gratitude, and arrangements were made to finalize documentation electronically.

Neighborhood Tensions Over Home-Based Business

The meeting also spotlighted a contentious application by Nicole Miller, who operates an online resale business from her garage. Miller described her business as a community-driven initiative providing affordable clothing and goods, with items often sourced from donations. She sought approval to formalize her garage as a pickup site for local customers.

However, residents on Buffalo Street voiced strong opposition. Stephanie Kelble, a neighbor, cited traffic congestion, property damage, and safety concerns, including repeated incidents of mailbox destruction and potential risks to children in the area. Multiple council members noted similar complaints from other residents, as well as the denial of similar business applications in the past.

After deliberation, the council denied Miller's application, citing zoning ordi-

nance provisions limiting home occupations and concerns about neighborhood impact.

Community Voices and Final Decisions

The board emphasized its role in balancing individual entrepreneurial efforts with broader community welfare.

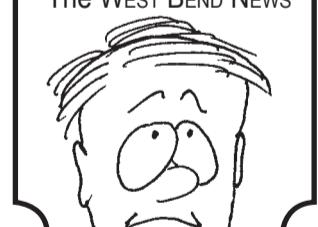
The denial of Miller's application, while disappointing to her supporters, reflects a commitment to maintaining residential zoning integrity.

The meeting concluded with routine formalities, leaving attendees to reflect on the council's efforts to navigate complex zoning challenges and community dynamics.

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SCARLET STRUTTERS BATON CORPS RECEIVES GENEROUS GRANT FROM DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION



Pictured with the grant check are (L to R) Drew Shindler - DAF Grants Committee Member and Ron Smith - Founder and Director of Scarlet Strutters Baton Corps.

The Scarlet Strutters Baton Corps is celebrating a significant milestone with the support of a \$1,600 grant from the Defiance Area Foundation. Awarded during the fall grant cycle, this funding will provide for new uniforms and help cover the costs associated with the Corps' 50th Anniversary Celebration.

The grant recognition ceremony featured Drew Shindler, a member of the DAF Grants Committee, presenting the check to Ron Smith, the founder and director of the Scarlet Strutters Baton Corps. This moment underscores the Foundation's commitment to fostering

community and supporting local organizations that make a positive impact.

Chelsie Schroeder, Marketing Director for the Defiance Area Foundation, highlighted the importance of community partnerships in her statement, noting that the Foundation takes pride in contributing to the longevity and success of initiatives like the Scarlet Strutters.

The Defiance Area Foundation continues to strengthen the community by funding projects that enrich lives and celebrate local heritage. Here's to the next 50 years of the Scarlet Strutters Baton Corps!

HOW ANTI-OBESEITY DRUGS ARE LINKED TO FOOD WASTE

Taking anti-obesity drugs has led some U.S. adults to throw away more food than they tossed before starting the medications, a new study has found.

In a survey of people currently on GLP-1 medications such as Ozempic, 25% of respondents agreed they had wasted more food since taking the drugs, compared to 61% who disagreed. People who were nauseated by the drugs were more likely to report increased food waste. Being on the medications for a longer period of time and eating more vegetables were associated with less food waste.

Scientists at The Ohio State University see this study of consumer behavior as an initial effort to consider the effects of these increasingly popular anti-obesity drugs

on food production and waste nationally and globally.

"This was a pilot study to start looking at implications of these medications and get in the ballpark of understanding which broad categories of food are more or less preferred after starting the medication," said senior author Brian Roe, professor in The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) Department of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics.

"The fact that food waste appears to decrease as patients acclimate to the medication suggests there may be a fairly simple remedy - advising patients new to these medications about the possibility of discarding food as their diets change, which could reduce food waste and lower their spending."

The research was published recently in the journal

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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

Nutrients.

About one-third of food in the United States is wasted, and about half of that is attributable to consumers who waste an average of 1 pound of food per person per day, according to National Academies estimates.

As of spring of this year, 6% of U.S. adults reported taking GLP-1 agonists, which treat type 2 diabetes and obesity by acting on a hormone in the small intestine to lower blood sugar, slow emptying of the stomach and signal fullness to the brain. In the study, almost 70% of respondents were taking semaglutide (Ozempic, Rybelsus, Wegovy) and nearly a quarter were taking terzepatide (Mounjaro).

The researchers surveyed 505 U.S. adults currently on anti-obesity medications through an online questionnaire focused on sociodemographic factors, personal characteristics, and questions concerning changes in eating habits, weight and food waste since starting on the medications.

The data analysis looked for various influences on how much participants agreed with one key statement: "Since beginning this medication I have found I waste more of the food that I purchase."

Participants represented a range of ages, household incomes and education levels, and most had insurance. On average, the group had lost 20% of their body weight if they had been on the medications for at least one year.

The one-fourth of participants who had been on the drugs for a year or longer were less likely to report wasting food than people who had taken the medication for 90 days or fewer - about 30% of the respondents.

Though nausea was the main driver of food waste, the results hinted at another possible influence: changes in preferences and habits that led people to toss foods that had fallen out of favor. Overall, participants reported adding produce, protein, fish and healthy fats to their diets and consuming less alcohol, pasta and other carbohydrates, fried foods, sweets and dairy.

"Meat is neutral in terms of eating more or less after starting this medication," Roe said.

The addition of vegetables to the diet - the most commonly wasted food group in the United States - was linked to a lower likelihood of wasting food, another sign of changing habits that, in this case, involved eating more veggie-dense meals.

Roe is planning another paper examining changes to household finances linked to taking anti-obesity medicines - in terms of both pharmacy and food costs. Given the steady rise in GLP-1 agonist prescribing, there are broad local and global economic and environmental impacts at play, he said.

"People taking these medications in all likelihood will be spending less on food, but whether there is a chance to offset the cost of the drug through reduction in food spending remains to be seen," he said.

Other research labs have used simulations to show that reducing population-level food consumption can lower energy costs, preserve land

and water resources, and reduce greenhouse gas creation by keeping discarded food out of landfills. But considering how relatively new anti-obesity medications are, there isn't enough data to make predictions about the extent of their societal effects just yet.

"I think it's clear that novel anti-obesity medications have a chance to impact global public health, and research suggests changes in intake of food can affect indicators of environmental impacts," Roe said. "There are lots of compelling questions as we think about sustainability of the food system and health care."

First author Jamil Mansouri, a Purdue University agricultural economics student, completed this work as a summer intern at Ohio State as part of the Big Ten Academic Alliance Summer Research Opportunities Program.

This research was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agri-

OHOMHAS AWARDS SOAR NETWORK INNOVATION GRANT TO LIFESPOTS PROGRAM



The Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) today announced it has awarded a \$250,000 SOAR Network Innovation Grant to LiFEsports - a premiere model for sport-based positive youth development at The Ohio State University - to extend its "Coach Beyond" trainings to community-based sports organizations.

"Under the leadership of Governor DeWine, Ohio has placed a top priority on supporting the mental health of children in a variety of innovative ways. The initiative supported by our grant funding will harness the power of sports to better support the mental health of our state's young athletes," said OhioMHAS Director LeeAnne Cornyn. "This training will help prepare our youth coaches to identify mental health concerns and support positive youth development. As a former athlete myself, I understand the valuable role of coaches in the lives of kids."

Coach Beyond is an initiative within LiFEsports, developed in partnership with the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA). Coach Beyond offers training designed to go beyond X's and O's - helping coaches recognize risk factors and identify symptoms of common mental health concerns and learn strategies to support child well-being.

"Anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation are at all-time highs. The pressures of sports can add additional stressors," said Dr. Dawn Anderson-Butcher, the Co-Executive Director of LiFEsports. "Sports, when designed well, can be a huge protective factor. Coaches at all levels can better support kids, teach life

and water resources, and reduce greenhouse gas creation by keeping discarded food out of landfills. But considering how relatively new anti-obesity medications are, there isn't enough data to make predictions about the extent of their societal effects just yet.

"I think it's clear that novel anti-obesity medications have a chance to impact global public health, and research suggests changes in intake of food can affect indicators of environmental impacts," Roe said. "There are lots of compelling questions as we think about sustainability of the food system and health care."

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Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of speech. In saying that, we do not hold agreement with the content that is printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. **To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address.** You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.

Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publication. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WE JUST WANT TO SAVE OUR CHURCHES

When the meetings about expenses for each building were announced, we had no idea a possible result could be closing one or two of the Divine Mercy Church buildings. If we had known this, many more people would have attended the meetings.

Later, a committee, selected by the church administration, met to propose choices for a survey of the membership on what option we wanted for church buildings. However, some of the committee's choices were ignored and did not appear on the ballot. There were only two choices, neither of which most of us wanted. Both would close Antwerp & Payne; leaving the Paulding building or constructing a new building "centrally located".

Later, a partial survey of the church membership was conducted by telephone calls and e-mails. Many people were not contacted, for some reason. Some of us that were contacted asked for a follow-up call; but we never received it.

Throughout this process, it was stated that Father would make the final

culture and Ohio State's Van Buren Fund, which supports the professorship held by Roe in the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

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

decision, regardless of what the majority wanted. For this reason, many people gave up and did not participate in any of the above activities because they thought Father had already decided, so there was no point in trying to get anything different.

An estimate of repairs, remodeling, and improvements was obtained by the church administration. These figures were given out and we were shocked by how high that amount was, and were skeptical about some of the things in it. Some of the suggested remodeling/upgrades are not necessary, especially if they contribute to closing our church. A "core group" of Payne church members thought it would be a good idea to get a second estimate, at our own individual expense, with no cost to the church. Certainly, when dealing with hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs, it would be prudent to get at least one more estimate. A well-qualified business in Fort Wayne was contacted and scheduled for 9:00 AM on a Monday morning in November, to look at the Payne building.

The day before the inspection was scheduled, a Payne member told Father about this. He became upset that we went behind his back and called one of the core group, demanding that the inspection be cancelled, which he agreed to, and did cancel. The core group decided to meet at that same time the next day, a cold Monday morning in November, to decide what to do next. After we all were in the parking lot, we decided

to go inside and get warm and sit down. However, we couldn't get in! The door key code had been changed. Three of us each tried it, but the previously stated code no longer worked. We were locked out of our own church! We were not trusted to cancel the inspection. The next day, a member tried to get in and did because the previous code had been restored, and it hasn't been changed since.

Since all three churches were built, various members have provided free labor and sometimes even free materials for most of the repairs and maintenance that the church buildings and grounds have needed throughout the years. Recently some members offered to do some repairs but were told we couldn't. Our present church administration says that can't be done because there is too much liability for the church. We offered to sign waivers stating the church would not be sued or liable, but the answer was still no. What a big change this is. Between our three church buildings, we have a number of trained and professional tradesmen that can do just about any kind of work that may need to be done. A number of our members are rightfully proud of the work they or their parents and grandparents have done in the past, but that is over now. What a shame.

A perfect example of this was soon after the St. Mary's Antwerp building was closed. Several Antwerp members went to the church there and brought ladders and tools and started

cleaning out the gutters that were plugged and causing some water damage to the walls of the church. Someone called the church office in Paulding and told them what they were doing. The Church office called the Antwerp police and told them to force the volunteer workers to leave since they were trespassing! What a shame. People donating time and work trying to help, and they get run off by the police / church administration.

A number of Payne and Antwerp members are willing to donate substantial amounts of money to get Antwerp re-opened and to keep Payne open. We feel the estimated expenses are overblown. We know Payne needs a roof and Antwerp has plaster problems from water damage. The money can be raised to fix these issues. Bat feces has been stated as a "big" problem in Payne. This dried up long ago and there has never been an odor. No one even knew it was up there. Sure we want to clean it up, but this isn't a prohibitive project. The Payne building is safe and doesn't need to be closed. No one wears hard hats at the weekly mass. The elementary school kids are not in danger when they go to their weekly mass there. Thirty plus years ago, the needed repairs to the Payne roof structure were made. A prominent architect has told us the roof is safe and probably no additional sagging has occurred since then.

We have been told that we cannot direct our donations to a specific purpose; but that the Diocese will decide how that donation will be used. What a big recent change this is. For example, not long ago, a small group of Payne members donated money to pay for the restoration of the church bells in the Payne belfry. This was done and is appreciated by many people in town, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. Now members want to donate towards the Payne roof replacement and Antwerp repairs, but are reluctant to do so when the money may be used for something else, not the Antwerp or Payne buildings.

If Divine Mercy can only afford one building, a strong case has been made that Payne should be kept open and that Paulding should close. The Payne building is larger and has more seating.

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: H2O Water Store, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Family Dollar, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Antwerp Manor, Library, Genesis House, G-Mart, Small Town Bliss, Dollar General

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General(Clinton St), (Maysville Rd.), Golden Years Junction, Dollar General, Nursing Home, Golden Years Senior Center, Cabbage Patch, Assisted Living, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, 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, Dollar General

Hicksville: Sailers, Vancrest, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Subway, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza, McDonalds

Nev: Marathon

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

Paulding: Stykemain, Chief, Corner Market, Integrity Ford, HollyWood & Vine, Napa Do It Best, Bargain Bin, Maramart, Dollar General, Dairy Queen, Rite Aid, Ace Hardware, Gorrell Bros, Courthouse, VFW Post 587, PC Sheriff's Office, Board of Elections, Gardens of Paulding, PCH, Kwik Mart,

INDIANA LOCATIONS

Fort Wayne: Hahn Systems, Walmart, Walgreens, Goodwill Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange Bank

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

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

Hoagland: Mel's Town Market, Hoagland Pizza Pub

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

New Haven: ACPL Library, McDonalds, Ken's Meat Market, Paterson Hardware, Crumback Chevrolet, CVS, Clips, NH Bakery, Chamber of Commerce (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, ACPL Library

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It has much more and better parking adjacent to the building. Much of the parking in Paulding is on side streets in front of non-member's houses, which may irritate them. Streets need to be walked across to get to the building there. Payne has a handicap ramp (Paulding does have an elevator).

The Church school is adjacent to the Payne building. This allows the school kids to easily walk to the church for their weekly mass. Also, the Church Hall/school gym is between the church and school, and benefits from the convenient parking, as well. If the Payne church is closed, possibly another structure (a chapel?) would need to be built. What a huge waste of money that would be when a suitable building is already there. If closing two buildings is a necessary financial decision, then serious consideration must be given to closing the Paulding building.

Perhaps there is some other reason for closing Antwerp and Payne that we haven't been told? It seems repair/remodeling costs are being used as an excuse. We have found that a number of other Catholic churches are being closed in a number of other areas and states. There seems to be a trend for rural counties to only have one Catholic church per county.

We just want to save our churches.

—Geoff Hyman
New Haven, IN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Our magnificent God has given us Baby Jesus through Mary, but he has also given us women the gift of bearing our children. For childless women, he has given them many young children to love in many different ways. For women who get pregnant unexpectedly and are scared, worried or feel alone, we will help & support them. Help us all to make abortion "unthinkable".

For Help Call:
Crisis Pregnancy Center
1-419-636-5692, 24-Hour
Hotline 1-800-633-3339,
Seeds of Hope 1-419-670-
2814

—Judy McCalla
Hicksville, OH

CONSIDER THESE YEAR-END FINANCIAL MOVES

As we enter the holiday season, your life may well become busier. Still, you might want to take the time to consider some financial moves before we turn the calendar to 2025.

Here are a few suggestions:

- Review your investment portfolio. As you look at your portfolio, ask these questions: Has its performance met my expectations this year? Does it still reflect my goals, risk tolerance and time horizon? Do I need to rebalance? You might find that working with a financial professional can help you answer these and other questions you may have about your investments.

- Add to your 401(k) and HSA. If you can afford it, and your employer allows it, consider putting more money into your 401(k) before the year ends — including "catch-up" contributions if you're 50 or older. You might also want to add to your health savings account (HSA) by the tax-filing deadline in April.

- Use your FSA dollars. Unlike an HSA, a flexible spending account (FSA) works on a "use-it-or-lose-it" basis, meaning you lose any unspent funds at the end of the year. So, if you still have funds left in your account, try to use them up in 2024. (Employers may grant a 2½ month extension, so check with your human resources area to see if this is the case where you work.)

- Contribute to a 529 plan. If you haven't opened a 529 education savings plan for your children, think about doing so this year. With a 529 plan, your earnings can grow tax deferred, and your withdrawals are federally tax free when used for qualified education expenses — tuition, fees, books and so on. And if you invest in your own state's 529 plan, you might be able to deduct your contributions from your state income tax or re-

ceive a state tax credit.

- Build your emergency fund. It's generally a good idea to keep up to six months' worth of living expenses in an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, low-risk account. Without such a fund in place, you might be forced to dip into your retirement funds to pay for short-term needs, such as a major car or home repair.

- Review your estate plans. If you've experienced any changes in your family situation this year, such as marriage, remarriage or the birth of a child, you may want to update your estate-planning documents to reflect your new situation. It's also important to look at the beneficiary designations on your investment accounts, retirement plans, IRAs and insurance policies, as these designations can sometimes even supersede the instructions you've left in your will. And if you haven't started estate planning, there's no time like the present.

- Take your RMDs. If you're 73 or older, you will likely need to take withdrawals — called required minimum distributions, or RMDs — from some of your retirement accounts, such as your traditional IRA. If you don't take these withdrawals each year, you could be subject to penalties.

These aren't the only moves you can make, but they may prove helpful not only for 2024 but in the years to come.

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

Edward Jones

Member SIPC



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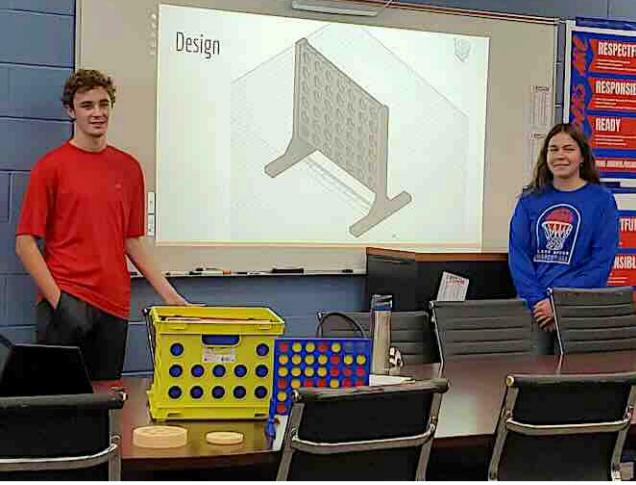
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Pictured above is Jaxon Cook - 9th grade, and Selene Moran Fernandez (exchange student) 11th grade.

Students in the Wayne Trace STEAM Center have been keeping busy with a variety of projects this month.

While the Media Arts class has been working on holiday banners for some of the local communities, the Engineering Design class has been presenting its plans for playground Connect-Four boards as part of their design review process.

Students have also been working on projects for the elementary schools as well, making a WT stamp for a new concrete project at Grover Hill and creating math manipulatives for students at Payne Elementary.

As we approach the end of the first semester, our Raiders are definitely picking up STEAM!



Luke Stouffer - 12th grade

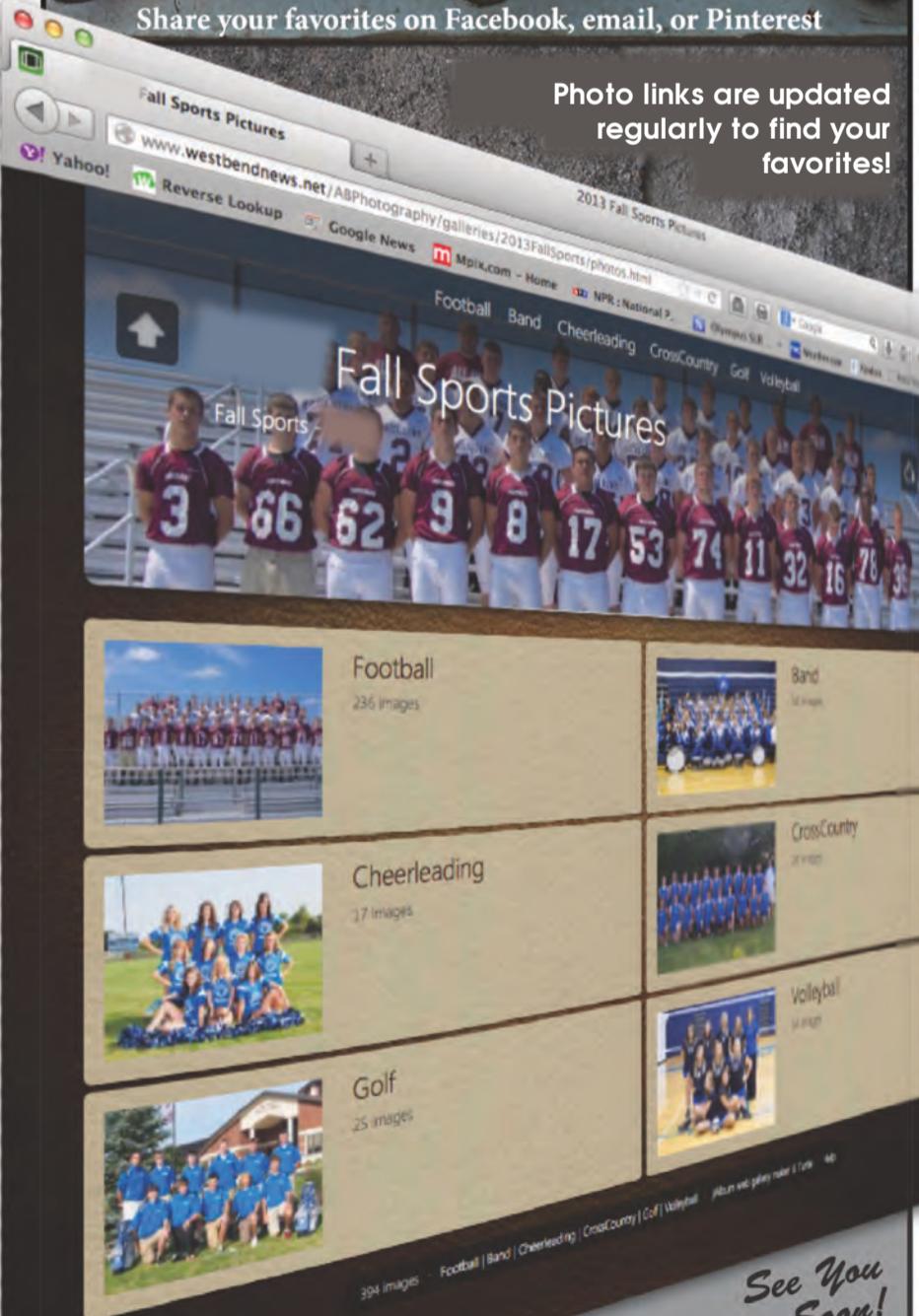
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ACES NIP APACHES

Host Hicksville opened a big lead in the first quarter and then held on at the end for a 43-42 victory over Fairview Friday night in non-conference boys basketball action.

The Aces dominated the first quarter in grabbing a 17-5 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action.

Fairview poured in 17 points in the second stanza with Hicksville scoring a dozen, giving the Aces a 29-22 lead at the midway point of the contest.

Each team scored eleven points in the third period, putting Hicksville in front 40-33 entering the final stanza.

The Apaches then made things interesting, scoring nine of the dozen fourth quarter points but Hicksville held on for the 43-42 victory.

Garrett Turnbull topped the red and white with 19 points while Jayden Rosalez contributing eight markers.

Jesus Avalos chipped in five points followed by Brant Langham (four), Owen Stuckey (four) and Austin Sanders (three).

Fairview was paced by Jackson Brady with 15 points while Kale Salyers and Levi Panico added nine and six markers, respectively.

Noah Shininger (four), Brody Williams (three), Jonah Shininger (three) and Logan Olinger (two) completed the scoring for the black and gold.

ARCHERS DROP SEASON OPENER

Kalida made the trip to Paulding County Friday night for the opener of high school boys basketball action with the Wildcats taking home a

71-45 victory over Antwerp.

After the two teams played to an 11-11 tie at the end of eight minutes of action, the visitors from Putnam County dominated the middle two periods.

In the second quarter, Kalida bucketed 21 points and limited the host Archers to nine as the Wildcats recorded a 32-20 halftime advantage.

The third quarter was much of the same for the Putnam County squad, outscoring the blue and white 20-9 in the period as Kalida extended the margin to 52-29 entering the final quarter.

Braylon Smith paced a balanced attack for Kalida with 14 points, one of four players to reach double digits. Jacob Siebeneck totaled 13 markers in the contest while Logan Kerner chipped in a dozen and Jackson Schroeder finished with ten.

Parker Vorst added eight points for the Wildcats followed by Owen Grime (six), Blake Remlinger (four), Nathan Kahle (two) and Griffin Klausing (two).

Antwerp was paced by Keegan Gray-Wyckoff with 17 points while Tavin Sholl and Drew Eaken chipped in six points each.

Others finding the scoring column for the blue and white were Zaine McMichael (five), Hampton Rogge (four), Derek Hines (two), Weston Rhonehouse (two), Michael Rohrs (two) and Lincoln Lucas (one).

CLEMENS LEADS RAIDERS TO WIN IN OPENER

Junior forward Carter Clemens scored twenty points and grabbed six rebounds to lead the Wayne Trace Raiders to a 63-54 win over Lincolnview in the boys basketball season opener at the 'Palace' Friday night.

The contest went back and forth in the first half as each team posted small leads, but the two squads ended the second quarter tied 31-31.

Wayne Trace then opened the game up in the third quarter, picking up eighteen points while limiting the Lancers to ten as the Raiders took a 49-41 advantage into the final stanza.

In the final period, the Van Wert County squad pulled within two points but the red, white and blue pulled away from there to finish off the 63-54 victory.

Tanner Laukhuf and Caden Sinn also reached twin digits for the Raiders as Laukhuf bucketed sixteen points with Sinn recording thirteen.

Zach Stoller chipped in six points for the red, white and blue followed by Brady Miller with five and Tyson Gerber connected on a three-point field goal.

Laukhuf hauled down six rebounds as well for Wayne Trace with Gerber grabbing five and Stoller picked up a quartet of boards.

Chayse Overholt had twenty points for Lincolnview with Bennett Kill also reaching double digits with eleven points.

Other scorers for the Lancers were Zander Coil (seven), Max Hammons (six), Kreston Tow (four), Gavin Evans (four) and Kody Hamilton (two).

Kill paced the blue and gold with eight rebounds while Overholt hauled in seven and Coil finished with six.



Festival co-chairman Michelle Stanford created this Christmas tree from newspapers, earning her a ribbon for Most Unique Tree.

(Continued from Page 1)



This tree, decorated by the Smith Family of Antwerp, received a blue ribbon for Most Lovely Tree.

Stanford, received a blue ribbon for Most Unique Tree. A blue ribbon for Most Lovely Tree went to the Smith Family of Antwerp. Their delightful tree shimmered in silver and gold with touches of soft blue.

The festival showcased 101 decorated Christmas trees, possibly the most ever since the annual holiday event started in the early 1990s. It became known as the Festival of Trees in 2002.

Elizabeth Miller and Michelle Stanford co-chaired the festival. The event was another huge success this year, thanks to the tree decorators, silent auction donors and bidders, meal sponsors, entertainers, visitors, and the many volunteers who decorated the



Aiden Lee, a senior at Wayne Trace, designed this tree for the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce. Festivalgoers voted his tree best in the youth category.

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The Bargain Bin won the Festival of Trees prize for most closely following the theme with their display in purples and white (at left).

museum's three buildings. This is the museum's largest event and largest fundraiser of the year.

Top festival sponsors this year were Holcim and VFW Post 587 of Paulding.

Paulding Fraternal Order of Eagles and Thrivent also were sponsors, in addition to Schlatter's Plumbing Heating and Air, Paulding VFW Auxil-

iary, Paulding Progress, Van Wert Vision, First Presbyterian Church, Paulding County Master Gardeners, Scott Equity Exchange, Lisa McClure, Village Apothecary and Shisler Insurance.

The Festival of Trees committee has chosen dates and a theme for 2025. Next year's event will be November 14-22 with the theme "Sparkle and Shine." The tea and preview night will be Saturday, November 8.

The museum welcomes anyone interested in decorating a tree, helping to decorate the buildings, sponsoring a meal or providing musical entertainment. For more information, email the museum at jphs45879@yahoo.com.

The museum will be open Tuesdays through December 10, then close for two months for a winter break. The museum will reopen to the public Tuesday, February 18. The annual membership meeting, open to the public, will be Sunday, February 23. Look for announcements and updates on their Facebook page at [facebook.com/jphsmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/jphsmuseum).

PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH RECOGNIZES NOVEMBER PAULDING PRIDE WINNERS



For November, the winners of the Paulding Pride card drawing are: Noah Thomas (Grade 7), Elias Jackson (Grade 8), Jayla Bittinger (Grade 6)

Each month, Paulding Junior High School (PJHS) celebrates students who go above and beyond what is expected, awarding them Paulding Pride cards as a recognition of their exceptional character and actions.

These students exemplify the spirit of Paulding Pride, and their efforts are celebrated as an inspiration to their peers and the community. Congratulations to these outstanding individuals for their dedication and positivity!

PANTHERS ROLL OVER PIRATES

Paulding limited host Continental to single digits in three of four quarters as the Panthers cruised to a 67-23 victory over the Pirates in season opening boys basketball action.

The maroon and white led 10-2 at the end of one stanza before widening the gap in the second quarter, putting up 17 points compared to Continental's nine to record a 27-11 halftime advantage.

Paulding extended the margin in the third quarter with a 17-point stanza while Continental had ten, giving the Panthers a 45-21 lead entering the final quarter.

Gannon Parrett had 15 points to lead the maroon and

white while Tyson Manz and Xander Kuckuck chipped in 11 markers apiece.

Blake Rhonehouse totaled nine points as well for Paulding followed by Jordan Manz (four), Grady Barton (four), Max Daeger (three), Brandon Schroeder (three), Jalen Manz (three), Peyton Manz (two) and Kane Jones (two).

Continental was paced by Monty Rayle with 11 points while Collin Hammond and Bardy Thomsen chipped in six markers apiece.

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PANTHERS CRUISE TO WIN OVER BOMBERS

The Paulding Panthers limited host Edon to nine second half points in rolling to a 54-34 win over the Bombers Saturday in girls non-conference basketball action.

The maroon and white held a slim 11-8 lead at the end of one quarter before Edon controlled the second stanza.

The Williams County squad poured in 17 second quarter points while limiting the Lady Panthers to a dozen as Edon took a 25-23 advantage at the midway point of the contest.

Paulding, though, answered in the third quarter by outpointing the Bombers 16-6 to record a 39-31 margin entering the final stanza.

In the fourth quarter, it was all Panthers as the maroon and white bucketed 15 points and limited Edon to three to wrap up the twenty point victory.

Kayleigh Dunham topped the maroon and white with 20 points in the contest while Tori Schlatter chipped in 11 markers.

Kate Manz (eight), Estie Pease (four), Addison Pease (four), Brooklynn Schlatter (three), Lucy Breier (two), Ameah Carr (one) and Brianna Bermejo (one).

The host Bombers were paced by Genna Ripke with 17 points and Addi Snyder contributed six for the Williams County squad.

Also finding the scoring column were Adison Briner (five), Kaylynn Bartlett (two), Amanda Schwartz (two) and Nevaeh Smith (two).

BLAZERS CRUISE TO VICTORY OVER WARRIORS

The Eastside Lady Blazers limited host Woodlan to just two first quarter points and the DeKalb County squad never looked back in posting

a 52-35 win over the Warriors Tuesday night.

Eastside scored nine of the eleven points in the opening stanza of the contest to post the seven-point advantage.

In the second period, Eastside bucketed 19 points while Woodlan picked up 17 as the Blazers recorded a 28-19 halftime advantage.

After both teams picked up a dozen points in the third quarter, Eastside wrapped up the win by pouring in a dozen of the sixteen markers scored in the final period for the 52-35 victory.

Alyssa Anderson topped the Lady Warriors with 11 points while McKenna Goble added nine markers and Reagan Widenhoefer chipped in seven points.

Brooke Kneubuhler and Alix Jacquay posted six and two markers, respectively, to aid the Woodlan cause.

Lilyan Kreischer and Lucy Kitchen scored 16 and 13 points for Eastside with Sydnee Kesler contributing eight. Taylor Mack (seven), Paige Traxler (four) and Adelaide Elden (four) provided the remainder of the points for Eastside.

RAILROADERS ROLL TO WIN OVER WARRIORS

Host Garrett was on top at every stop in a 52-38 boys basketball non-league victory over Woodlan Tuesday evening.

The Railroaders jumped on top 15-11 at the end of one period before widening the margin to 25-15 at the midway point of the contest. Garrett then extended the lead to 38-23 entering the final period before holding on for the fourteen-point win.

Trey Yoder led the way for Woodlan with nine points in the contest while Mason

CARING AND SHARING FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES \$1,000 DONATION



Present at the grant presentation were Brad Harsha from First Financial Bank, Jodi Schneider representing the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry, and Heather Parrett, Kacy Wagner, Holly Manz, and Citlali Montiel Herrera from Cooper Farms.

in First Financial's WORKlife program. The program rewards participating companies with a donation to a non-profit organization of their choice, along with financial benefits such as product discounts, special checking cash

bonuses, and wellness incentives for employees.

This donation underscores the power of collaboration between businesses and nonprofits in addressing community needs and promoting welfare initiatives.

inspire others to serve," said Robbin Wilcox, Executive Foundation Director. "Residents throughout the six-county area are generous with their time and resources.

Each year, the Foundation hears amazing stories of individuals, businesses and organizations that go above and beyond to make a difference in their community. We are currently seeking names of worthy award candidates again this year."

The Making a Difference Awards will be presented during a special Green Carpet celebration on May 15, 2025. Nomination forms can be found online at NorthwestState.edu/Making-a-Difference-Award and are due to NSCC Foundation Office by January 3, 2025. For more information, contact Robbin Wilcox at 419.267.1460 or rwilcox@NorthwestState.edu.

Congratulations to our 2024 Recipients: Individual: Ed Kidston; Business: Daavlin; Organization: Symphony of Trees

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THE LEFT TURN

Zach Wigal 2024 DARF Rookie of The Year. USAC Thunder Midget photo



#71 Max Stanbaugh DARF Dirt Driver of The Year. Campbell Photography



Cody Coughlin won CRA/Jegs feature in Toledo 2024. Charlie Orns photo

By: Ron Burt

Let's start this week by sending congratulations to Great Lakes Super Sprint driver Max Stambaugh. He was honored to be the 2024 Dayton Auto Race Fans Club, Dirt Driver of The Year. Great Lakes Super Sprints is an exciting traveling sprint series of full sized winged sprint cars that travels the Great Lakes Region racing at local dirt tracks. Zach Wigal with the USAC Thunder Midgets won the Rookie of The Year Award. He's now racing with the USAC National Midget Series. ASA/CRA Super Series powered by JEGS released their 2025 schedule of 9 events starting January 19th in Cordele Georgia. The ASA/CRA Super Series will make an inaugural trip to Dominion Raceway on Saturday, April 5th alongside the ASA STARS National Tour.

The ASA/CRA Super Series returns to the Midwest on Saturday, June 21st for a return trip to Flat Rock Speedway. Chase Burda won the co-sanctioned event with the JEGS/CRA All-Stars Tour in 2024 en route to his first career ASA/CRA Super Series Championship. In 2025, drivers will have a new racing surface at Flat Rock Speedway.

Anderson Speedway and the Redbud 400 are back on the ASA/CRA Super Series schedule. On Saturday, July 26th the field will try to tackle one of the tightest tracks on the circuit. Canadian drivers have won the Redbud 400 the last two years with Cole Butcher winning the race in 2023 and Kyle Steckly taking the honors in 2024.

The only midday event of the season will be Wednesday, August 20th at Owosso Speedway for the Michigan 300. A co-sanctioned event with the ASA STARS National Tour, last year the event was 100 laps less. Chandler Smith domi-

nated the event, leading the final 37 laps collecting the win by nearly four seconds over Austin Nason and Gavan Boschele.

The Series welcomes back the ASA STARS National Tour for another co-sanctioned event on Saturday, September 13th at Toledo Motor Speedway for the Glass City 200 – won by Casey Roderick in 2024.

Finally, the 2025 season will close out Sunday, October 12th with the 54th Running of the Winchester 400. Cole Butcher took the lead with just over 50 laps to go holding off Ty Majeski and Kyle Steckly for the 2024 win. Then, the ASA/CRA Super Series heads for Nashville for the final non-points event of the season and

the Championship finale for the ASA STARS National Tour, the All American 400. A week later than it has been in recent years, the final visit to the Fairgrounds Speedway will be on Sunday, November 9th.

The Rumble in Fort Wayne at the Memorial Coliseum, December 27th and 28th will not run the Legend Cars this year. There wasn't enough time organize the event on the program. It was a last minute call, but something the powers to be are thinking about adding next year to the packed schedule of Midgets, 600cc wing and non-wing, many classes of Go Karts, Mini Wedges and Quarter Midgets. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS WITH CHRISTMAS AT ASH CAVE



Experience the magic of the season like never before as the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) presents Christmas at Ash Cave, a festive event hosted by Hocking Hills State Park on Saturday, December 14, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Gather family and friends and meet at the Ash Cave parking lot, where a fun holiday tradition awaits.

"This event is a perfect blend of holiday cheer and the incredible natural beauty of Ash Cave," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "It's a magical way for families and friends to create lasting memories together while exploring one of Ohio's most cherished outdoor spaces."

Ash Cave at Hocking Hills State Park during the winter season.

As you stroll along the candlelit quarter-mile trail, let the glow guide you to Ohio's largest recessed cave, a natural marvel steeped in history and beauty. The horseshoe-shaped Ash Cave, with its soaring 100-foot rim and 700-foot-wide span, provides the perfect backdrop for this holiday celebration.

During the event, you can also warm up with hot cocoa and cookies while you take part in seasonal activities that bring out the spirit of the holidays. Santa Claus will also stop by for the fun and you create heartfelt memories through hands-on crafts like popsicle stick decorations, pinecone bird feeders, and hand-dipped candles.

This event is more than a celebration of the season—it's an opportunity to immerse yourself in the unique charm of Ash Cave, where nature and history come alive. Known for its exceptional acoustics and rich past, Ash Cave has long been a natural gathering spot, from early settlers holding Sunday services to today's hikers marveling at its towering cliffs and, in winter, breathtaking ice formations.

Christmas at Ash Cave is free and open to the public, offering a chance for visitors of all ages to embrace the holiday spirit in one of Ohio's

most iconic natural settings.

Event Details:

- * Date: Saturday, December 14;
- * Time: 5-7 p.m.;
- * Location: Ash Cave Parking Lot, Hocking Hills State Park, 26400 OH-56, South Bloomington, Ohio 43152

Celebrate the holidays with us at this unforgettable event, where the beauty of nature meets the warmth of the season.

The ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft provides exceptional outdoor recreation and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and conservation of Ohio's 76 state parks and waterways.

In 2024, join ODNR as we celebrate 75 years of protecting Ohio's natural resources and providing outstanding and award-winning recreational opportunities.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov/.

ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS



On November 15 - A welfare check was requested on a resident. Additionally on this date, a report was made regarding a sex offense that occurred outside of Antwerp's jurisdiction. Officers advised the individual to file the report in the jurisdiction where the assault occurred.

On November 16 - Officers stopped a dirt bike driving on a city street at 7:00 p.m. The driver was cited for driving without headlights and no operator's license. In a separate incident on this date, a resident reported a person

trespassing on their property.

On November 18 - A vehicle struck a yellow barrier at the Sunoco gas station. In a separate case on this date, a report of a potential protection order violation was filed and sent to the Fulton County prosecutor's office.

On November 19 - A motor vehicle struck a deer on West River Street near the village limits.

On November 21 - Officers were contacted about a juvenile going door-to-door asking for food and money. A report was filed and sent to the Department of Job and Family Services.

On November 22 - Officers responded to a domestic dispute at the Leinard Mobile Home Park. A report was filed and sent to the Paulding County prosecutor's office. In another incident on this date, officers were contacted regarding harassment against an Antwerp resident. A report was documented and filed.

On November 25 - A domestic dispute was reported. Officers determined that no physical altercation or threats occurred. A report was filed with the Paulding County prosecutor's office.

On November 29 - An assault was reported on an Antwerp school bus involving students. An investigation was conducted, and a report was filed with the Paulding County prosecutor's office.

On November 30 - A motor vehicle accident occurred at the Pit Stop gas station. The driver was cited for failure to control and no operator's license.

On December 1 - A resident on Harrmann Street reported that their mailbox was hit and knocked over.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HICKSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Hicksville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for an application for a LOT SPLIT on Thursday December 19, 2024 at 6:00pm, In the Zoning Office, located at 108 North Main Street, Hicksville, Ohio.

The application, submitted by Headley Enterprises, is a request to split lot 27 of Edgerton's 1st Addition, with a physical address of 120 East Smith Street. The request is to split .149 acres, more or less.

The 2nd lot in the request is Lot 28 of Edgerton's 1st Addition, with a physical address of 122 East Smith Street.

The 3rd lot in the request is to split Lot 29 of Edgerton's 1st Addition, with a physical address of 117 North Maple Street. The request is to split .579 acres, more or less.

—Jared Radford,
Zoning Official
Village of Hicksville

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

FROM:

1.01 THE Village of Hicksville (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS Owner):

A. Village of Hicksville
B. Address:
111 South Main Street
Hicksville, Ohio 43526

1.02 AND THE Architect (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS Architect):

A. Sixmo Architecture
B. Address:
1101 Auburn Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

1.03 DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2024

1.04 TO: POTENTIAL BIDDERS

A. Your firm is invited to submit an offer under seal to Owner for construction of a facility located at the address below before 4:00pm local standard time on the 9th day of January 2025 for: Village of Hicksville - Phase 1 Pool located at: 598 North Bryan Street, Hicksville, Ohio 43526

B. Project: Village of Hicksville - Phase 1 Pool

C. Architect's Project Number: 5179 02 23

D. Project Description: New recreation pool and seasonal 1-story masonry pool house.

E. Documents may be obtained by interested Bidders via email request to the Architect, online at Plancycle and BXOhio, or at the office of the Owner.

F. Bidders will be required to provide Bid security in the form of a Bid Bond of a sum no less than 5 percent of the Bid Amount.

G. Refer to other bidding requirements described in Document 00 2113 - Instructions to Bidders and Document 00 3100 - Available Project Information.

H. Submit your offer on the Bid Form provided. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate.

I. Your offer will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 30 days after submission.

J. The successful bidder will be required to pay laborers on the job in accordance with the State of Ohio Prevailing Wage determination.

K. Request for Information acceptable via email only to Cory Wann (WILADMIN@DEFNET.COM) and Jim Clarke (jclarke@sixmoarchitecture.com).

L. Substantial Completion Date: 5-01-2026

M. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers.

1.05 POSTINGS:

A. West Bend News: 12/9 & 12/16

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

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On December 2 - A resident reported that prescription medication was stolen from their vehicle. In a separate incident, a black clipboard was found and returned to its owner.

If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions, please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Keyona R. Dashkovitz, Paulding, OH was found guilty of Persistent Disorderly Conduct and fined \$200 with \$380 in court costs. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended, and ordered to maintain good behavior, complete standard probation, counseling at Westwood, 20 hours of community service, a risk assessment, and repay court-appointed attorney fees.

Sean Ryan, Oakwood, OH pleaded guilty to Disorderly Conduct, was fined \$100 with \$280 in court costs, sentenced to 30 days in jail (25 days suspended), and ordered to maintain good behavior and avoid unlawful contact with the victim.

Lucas G. Hall, Paulding, OH pleaded guilty to Criminal Damage, fined \$200 (fully suspended) with \$209 in court costs, sentenced to 60 days in jail (fully suspended), and ordered to pay \$922 in restitution, complete 20 hours of community service, and maintain employment.

while on probation.

Joshua L. Stewart, Antwerp, OH was found guilty of violating brake requirements, fined \$70 with \$95 in court costs, and faced no additional conditions.

Jose A. Aguilar, Celina, OH pleaded guilty to driving without a license, fined \$200 with \$97 in court costs, and faced no additional conditions.

Diego J. Garcia, Indianapolis, IN pleaded guilty to driving without a license, fined \$150 with \$97 in court costs, and faced no additional conditions. He also pleaded guilty to speeding (89/65), fined \$45, and faced no additional special conditions.

Israel S. Rodriguez, Tampa, FL pleaded guilty to Marked Lanes violation, fined \$55 with \$97 in court costs, and was also found guilty of driving without a license, fined \$150, with no special conditions noted.

Joshua R. Williams, Payne, OH had his case for Driving/Texting dismissed upon proof of insurance provided by the defendant at their cost.

Miryam Soto Araujo, Paulding, OH pleaded guilty to driving without a license, fined \$150 with \$97 in court costs, and was ordered to have her vehicle held if found driving in Paulding County until further court orders.

Antonio Gonzalez Velazquez, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded guilty to driving without a license, fined \$150 with \$87 in court costs, and was ordered to have his vehicle held in Paulding County under similar conditions.

Dylan J. Gamble, Paulding, OH pleaded guilty to a Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$30 with \$57 in court costs, and waived his case with no additional conditions.

May M. Mon, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded guilty to a

Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$30 with \$57 in court costs, and waived her case without further conditions.

Jervion J. Turner, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded guilty to Driving/Texting, fined \$150 with \$95 in court costs, and waived his case without further conditions. He also pleaded guilty to a Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$30

Rakai A. Alsadi, Bronx, NY had his case for Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence dismissed. He pleaded guilty to a charge of Assured Clear Distance, fined \$60 with \$105 in court costs, and faced no additional conditions.

Ryan S. Hogans, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded no contest to driving with a suspended license, fined \$200 with \$105 in court costs, and had his warrant and warrant block rescinded. He was also found guilty of speeding (71/55), fined \$45 without further conditions.

Branden D. Kline, Haviland, OH pleaded no contest to Persistent Disorderly Conduct, fined \$150 with \$205 in court costs, and was sentenced to 30 days in jail (25 days suspended). He was placed on standard probation, required to submit to evaluation at Westwood, complete any counseling, avoid contact with the victim, and complete the Hands Down Book program.

Lynette A. Shidler, Paulding, OH pleaded guilty to Persistent Disorderly Conduct, fined \$109 with \$230 in court costs, and sentenced to 30 days in jail (28 days suspended). She was ordered to maintain good behavior and have no contact with the victim.

Chase M. Ray, Upper Sandusky, OH pleaded no contest to Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence, fined \$375 with \$105 in court costs, sentenced to 30 days in

jail (27 days suspended), and ordered to attend a DIP program in lieu of three days of jail, Operator license suspended from 12/16/24 to 12/16/25. His warrant and warrant block were recalled.

He was found guilty of Driving Under Suspension and given a \$200 fine and speeding (69/55), fined \$207 and \$35 respectively, with no additional conditions.

Chad L. Manz, Defiance, OH pleaded guilty to a Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$30 with \$57 in court costs, and waived his case without further conditions.

Brian Kline, Haviland, OH had two charges of Zone Violation dismissed per the state, without prejudice, and costs waived.

Jody T. Locke, Indianapolis, IN pleaded guilty to a Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$20 with \$62 in court costs, and waived his case without further conditions.

Rebecca L. Starner, Paulding, OH pleaded guilty to Driving/Texting, fined \$95, and waived her case without further conditions.

Douglas A. Wenninger, Haviland, OH pleaded guilty to Driving/Texting, fined \$95, and waived his case without further conditions.

Aidan M. Ulmer, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded guilty to a Seat Belt/Driving violation, fined \$30 with \$57 in court costs, and waived his case without further conditions.

Valerie M. Harper, Melrose, OH pleaded guilty to a Child Restraint violation, fined \$70 with \$95 in court costs, and waived her case without further conditions.

Edgar C. Zuniga, Fort Wayne, IN pleaded guilty to a Turn Signal violation, fined \$150, and waived his case without further conditions.

LADY WARRIOR OPEN ACAC PLAY WITH WIN

ACAC girls basketball action started Friday night with the Woodlan Lady Warriors recording a 52-46 victory at Jay County.

The two squads were tied 13-13 after eight minutes of action before the Warriors outscored the Patriots 11-5 in the second stanza for a 24-18 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, Woodlan picked up 15 markers compared to a dozen for Jay County as the Allen County squad expanded the margin to 39-30 entering the final period.

The host Lady Patriots picked up 16 points in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Warriors' 13 in the period, but Woodlan held on for the six-point win.

Alyssa Anderson led the way for the Lady Warriors with 22 points and 24 rebounds while Brooke Kneubuhler chipped in nine points, five rebounds and five assists.

Emma McDaniel posted eight points with Reagan Widenhoefer finished with six markers and two assists. McKenna Goble recorded five points and five rebounds as well for the Lady Warriors.

SUSPECTED IMPAIRED DRIVER CAUSES HEAD-ON COLLISION

On December 3, 2024, at approximately 3:40 P.M. troopers with the Lima Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol were dispatched to state Route 309 near Grubb Road for a report of an injury crash.

During the investigation, it was found that Joseph D. Fritts, age 34, of Lima, was operating a 2008 Ford F-150 pickup truck westbound on state Route 309 and crossed over the yellow center line into oncoming traffic. Alexis M. Miller, age 23, of Van Wert, was operating a 2010 Buick LaCrosse eastbound on state Route 309 when struck head-on by the F-150. The F-150 went off the south side of the roadway, and the LaCrosse came to final rest on the roadway.

Joseph D. Fritts was transported by American Township EMS to St. Rita's Mercy Health for reported minor injuries. Alexis Miller was transported by American Township EMS to St. Rita's Mercy Health with reported minor injuries. There were two passengers in the Buick LaCrosse. Evan M. Miller, age 20, of Van Wert did not sustain injury. Sierra N. G. Adams, age 22, of Van Wert was transported by private vehicle to St. Rita's Mercy Health with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries. All occupants who were required to wear a seatbelt were reportedly wearing a seatbelt. Drug impairment is suspected to be a factor in the crash for Mr. Fritts.

Assisting troopers on scene were deputies with the Allen County Sheriff's Office, American Township Police, American Township Fire & EMS and Able Towing. State Route 309 was closed near Grubb Rd. for just over an hour, and has since been reopened. The crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol would like to remind motorists to never drive under the influence or alcohol or drugs, and to always wear a properly adjusted seatbelt.

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

GOOD NEWS doesn't just happen. It's made!

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

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NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, Plaintiff

vs.

RODNEY C. DIX, ET.AL., DEFENDANTS,

Case No. CI-24-175

Judge Tiffany R. Beckman

TO: Rodney C. Dix; Unknown Spouse of Rodney C. Dix; Unknown heirs, administrators, executors and assigns of Rodney C. Dix; Michael T. Nicely, Cherie S. Nicely, Deep Green Bank

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: of Rodney Dix at 741 Tom Tim Drive, Paulding, Ohio; of Michael & Cherrie Nicely at 15939 SR 66, Defiance, Ohio 43512; and of Deep Green Bank of PO Box 31548 Seven Hills, Ohio 44131

Please take notice that a complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action against you seeking a foreclosure of tax liens and a public sale of real property owned by Rodney C. Dix to pay delinquent real estate taxes owed on said real estate recorded in Volume 168 Page 212; Volume 282, Page 539 of the Paulding County Records.

The real property in question is situated as follows:

FILED
PAULDING COUNTY
ANN E. PEASE
CLERK OF COURTS

2024 NOV 21 PM 9:18

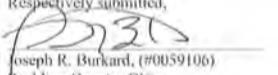
Auditor's Parcel #23-46S-033-00
Property address: 741 Tom Tim Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879

You are required to answer in the above-captioned cause twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication hereof, or a default judgment seeking sale of your real estate will be sought. Your answer should be filed with the Clerk of Courts, Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Ann Pease, Clerk
Court of Common Pleas
Paulding, County, Ohio

By 
Deputy

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph R. Burkard, (#0059106)
Paulding County, Ohio
Prosecuting Attorney
120 S. Walnut Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879
419-399-8270

Respectfully submitted,


Leslie J. Guelde, deceased, et.al., Defendants

Case No. CI 24-174

TO: Unknown Spouse of Leslie J. Guelde; The CITI/Group Finance, Inc.

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS: of Unknown Spouse of Leslie J. Guelde 13607 Helen Street, Paulding, Ohio 45879; of The CITI/Group Finance, Inc. 525 Metro Place North, Suite 275, Dublin, Ohio 43017

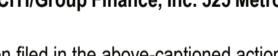
Please take notice that a complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action against you seeking a foreclosure of tax liens and a public sale of real property owned by Leslie J. Guelde to pay delinquent real estate taxes owed on said real estate recorded in Volume 257 Page 327; Volume 252, Page 307 of the Paulding County Records.

The real property in question is situated as follows:

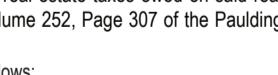
Auditor's Parcel #23-51B-071-00
Property Address: 13607 Helen Street, Paulding, Ohio 45879

You are required to answer in the above-captioned cause twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication hereof, or a default judgment seeking sale of your real estate will be sought. Your answer should be filed with the Clerk of Courts, Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Ann Pease, Clerk
Court of Common Pleas
Paulding, County, Ohio

By 
Deputy

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph R. Burkard, (#0059106)
Paulding County, Ohio
Prosecuting Attorney
120 S. Walnut Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879
419-399-8270

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

FILED

DEC 02 2024

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO -Juvenile Division-

Case No. 2024 3007

IN THE MATTER OF:

DARYUS MITCHELL

ADJUDICATED DEPENDENT AND NEGLECTED CHILD

To: JOSEPH MITCHELL

LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:

UNKNOWN

Please take notice that a motion to grant legal custody of the child and terminate the involvement of Defiance-Paulding Consolidated Department of Job & Family Services has been filed in the above captioned matter. You may attend the hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025 at

3:30 p.m. Said

hearing will be

held at the

Paulding County

Juvenile Court

located at 115 N

Williams Street, Suite 202,

Paulding, Ohio 45879

Respectfully Submitted,


Joseph R. Burkard (#0059106)

Prosecuting Attorney

Paulding County, Ohio

120 S. Walnut Street

Paulding, Ohio 45879

(419) 399-8270

FAX: (419) 399-2358

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

FILED

DEC 02 2024

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO -Juvenile Division-

Case No. 2024 3008</

FAIRVIEW ACME BASEBALL PROGRAM SCORES \$1,000 MOOSE GRANT



Central Local Schools received a boost for their Fairview ACME Baseball Program, thanks to a generous \$1,000 grant awarded by the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. The funds will be instrumental in supporting the development and success of the program.

The grant presentation featured Assistant Varsity Baseball Coach Tom Singer and

Defiance Moose Lodge Volunteer Melvina Smith, who posed with the ceremonial check.

This partnership reflects the community-driven mission of the Defiance Moose Lodge and underscores its commitment to nurturing local youth programs. Congratulations to the Fairview ACME Baseball Program on this significant contribution!

DEFIANCE AREA YMCA AWARDED \$23,750 GRANT FOR CHILDCARE PROGRAM EXPANSION



Representatives at the grant presentation included Alivia Homier, Lead Pre-K Teacher; Deb Hench, Defiance Area Foundation Grants Committee Member; Jordan Minck, Childcare Director; Amber Frederick, Lead Preschool Teacher; and preschool students Cam Dickinson, Lillian Faykosh, and Amilyn Deane.

The Defiance Area YMCA has received a substantial \$23,750 grant during the Defiance Area Foundation's fall

2024 grant cycle. This funding will be used to expand the YMCA's childcare program by replacing furniture, purchas-

ing new cubbies, and acquiring two new smart boards, among other enhancements.

This investment underscores the commitment to providing quality childcare services and supporting the growth and development of young learners in the community.

VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE ANNOUNCES YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Van Wert Civic Theatre (VWCT) is proud to announce the creation of a new Youth Scholarship Program, supporting young performers and participants in the theatre's Youth Theatre and Adolescent and Young Adult Theatre (AYAT) productions. This initiative aims to recognize and reward individuals who have showcased dedication, talent, and passion in the arts over the past calendar year.

The scholarship program will be funded through generous community and business donations. All contributions to the program are tax deductible, and community members are encouraged to give to this important cause.

Scholarship recipients must have actively participated in at least one Youth Theatre or AYAT production during the last calendar year. Awards will be based on their contributions and commitment to VWCT's mission of fostering creativity and growth through theatre arts.

By supporting this program, donors play an essential role in nurturing the next generation of performers and creators. Donations will directly impact the lives of local youth by providing resources to help them pursue their artistic dreams.

For more information or to contribute, please contact Dale Terry at dale@vwct.org or (419) 238-9689.

OHIO HOUSE PASSES LEGISLATION MODIFYING COUNTY ENGINEER VACANCIES

This week, the Ohio House of Representatives passed House Bill 430, which will modify procedures for filling county engineer vacancies, announced bill sponsors State Representatives Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) and Elgin Rogers (D-Toledo).

The legislation seeks to aid counties in finding more qualified individuals to run for county engineer and establish new opportunities for counties that are unable to fill an engineer vacancy.

The proposed legislation will:

- Grant county commissioners the authority to contract with engineers from other counties to fill vacant positions in the county engineer's office for the remainder of the term if they haven't been able to fill the vacancy through either election or appointment.

- Eliminate the pay discrepancy for engineers who also maintain a private practice.

"This legislation builds on the success of similar provisions for county coroners, which have been invaluable in addressing vacancies in critical county offices," said Klopfenstein. "By requiring counties with an engineer vacancy to compensate the contracted engineer at the same rate as their own, this bill ensures fairness while maintaining essential services for our communities."

"Our bipartisan legislation provides communities across Ohio with the tools and resources needed to address county engineer vacancies," said Rogers. "I am proud to partner with our county governments to implement practical and cost-effective solutions for this challenge."

The legislation now moves to the Ohio Senate for consideration.

COPS & KIDS GO SHOPPING PROGRAM SEEKS SUPPORT

Since 2002, local law enforcement officers have been shopping with children in need, creating holiday memories while providing essentials and gifts. Four years ago, the Fort Findlay FOP Lodge 20 Foundation transitioned from a national program—where a portion of donor dollars went elsewhere—to a fully local approach, ensuring every dollar raised stays in Hancock County to benefit local kids. While this transition has ensured that support stays within the community, it also means that the program relies more heavily on the generosity of individuals, businesses, and organizations in our area.

Last year, officers shopped with 140 children giving them \$200 each to spend on toys, clothing, and other essentials, with local school districts helping to identify participants in need. This year, rising prices and a growing number of children in need have stretched resources thin.

The program has touched countless lives, including one local family who shared how much it meant to them. "This program has been a blessing for us," said a parent of a past participant who wished to remain anonymous. "Not only did it help us provide essentials during a tough time, but the experience of shopping with an officer gave my child a sense of excitement that was very special. It showed them that our community cares, and I'll forever be grateful for that."

Donations of any size can make a difference. Contributions help provide children with the funding they need to shop while fostering positive relationships with law enforcement.

To support Cops & Kids, donations can be made online at fortfindlayfop20.org/cops-and-kids or mailed to Fort Findlay FOP Lodge 20 Foundation.

TEMPLE OF PRAISE RECEIVES GENEROUS MOOSE GRANT FOR FOOD PANTRY



Pictured with the grant check are (L to R) Pastor Ruben Laguna - Pastor at Temple of Praise and Roberta Philpot - Vice President of the Defiance Moose Lodge.

The Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 has demonstrated its commitment to community welfare by awarding a \$1,000 grant to the Temple of Praise. This funding will play a significant role in supporting the Temple's food pantry, which serves local residents in need.

The grant presentation was marked by a photo opportunity featuring Pastor Ruben Laguna of the Temple of Praise and Roberta Philpot, Vice President of the Defiance Moose Lodge. Their partnership exemplifies a shared dedi-

cation to addressing food insecurity within the community.

Chelsie Schroeder, Marketing Director of the Defiance Area Foundation, shared the announcement and highlighted the importance of collaboration between local organizations to strengthen community services.

This grant represents not only financial aid but also a reinforcement of community bonds, ensuring essential services like the food pantry can continue to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

community through youth and family programming.

BOURBON, BAGS & BINGO: A NIGHT OF FUN AND PRIZES IN NEW HAVEN

Looking for an unforgettable evening filled with excitement and community spirit? The East Allen County Schools Educational Foundation invites you to "Bourbon, Bags & Bingo," a special event taking place on Tuesday, February 11th, at the Harmony Bingo/Circle of Hope Bingo Hall in New Haven, Indiana. This lively night promises

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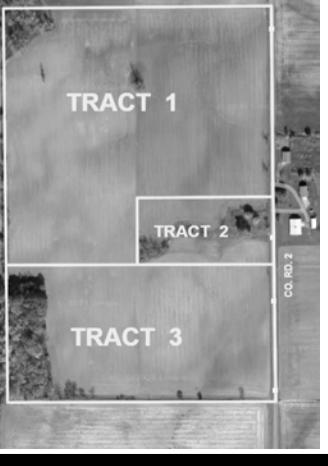
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LUCAS SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Laurie Lucas, Habitat for Humanity, Paulding County, as the guest speakers at the December 5, 2024, club meeting. Laurie came at the invitation of Jane Gray, (Fellow Kiwanian). Laurie spoke to the Kiwanians about the growth of Habitat throughout the years and changes that have been made. Habitat has given families a great start with their futures by providing affordable housing for those in need.

CLOTHES FOR KIDS RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FROM ZONTA CLUB OF DEFIANCE



A check presentation ceremony featured Becky Michael and Mindy McClure from the Zonta Club alongside Katie Groff, Co-Chair of Clothes for Kids.

Clothes for Kids, a program under the Defiance Area Foundation, has been awarded a \$1,000 grant by the Zonta Club of Defiance. This generous donation will go toward purchasing clothing for students in Defiance County, ensuring children have access to essential items as they head to school.

The collaboration between local organizations continues to make a meaningful impact on the lives of young residents in Defiance County.

The grant highlights the Zonta Club's commitment to supporting the community and addressing critical needs.

thrilling games, delectable food, and a chance to win incredible prizes, all while supporting a great cause.

Doors open at 5:30 PM, with Bingo games kicking off at 6:30 PM. Attendees can look forward to an evening centered around ten exciting rounds of Bingo, where the stakes include top-shelf bourbon and stylish designer bags. But the fun doesn't stop there. Guests can also participate in a variety of raffles, including a 50/50 draw, raffle baskets, super allocated raffles, and door prizes.

To complement the games, delicious dinner options and

snacks will be available for purchase from the 330 Bar and Grill. A cash bar will also offer sodas and adult beverages to keep the festivities flowing.

This 21-and-older event is the perfect opportunity to enjoy a night out with friends while supporting the EACS Educational Foundation. Tickets include ten Bingo games and a door prize ticket. Those planning to attend are encouraged to act quickly, seating is limited to just 200 participants.

Visit the EACS Annex Office, located at 800 Homestead Drive, New Haven, Indiana.

HELP WANTED

Assistant Treasurer - Payroll Specialist Needed

Paulding Exempted Village Schools is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Assistant Treasurer - Payroll Specialist.

Qualified applicants should email a Paulding EVSD Support Staff application, a letter of interest, and resume with other information applicant deems important to Jacob Thiel, Treasurer/CFO at j.thiel@pauldingschools.org. All emails must be received by Friday, December 13, 2024.

Duties include but are not limited to: Payroll, Accounts Payable and Benefits.

Applicants must adhere to confidentiality standards, maintain professionalism, possess strong computer skills and have excellent communication skills. Prior experience in Payroll and Public Accounting are preferred but not required.

The position is fulltime, 260 days per year. Benefits include: excellent insurance, retirement and vacation/sick/personal leave. This is a confidential non-union employee who reports to the Treasurer/CFO.

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TIMBER WANTED: Specializing in walnut trees and hardwood trees. Buyer of standing timber. Call Gary Keegan 517-296-4601 51-50p

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DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS: FRIDAYS @ 12:00 NOON. Call 419-258-2000

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 50-52

Payment is accepted via cash or check, made payable to the EACS Educational Foundation. For reservations, you can email the Foundation at eacs-foundation@eacs.k12.in.us or call 260-446-0100, extension 3162.

Make sure to mark your calendar for this one-of-a-kind evening where fun meets philanthropy. With incredible prizes, great food, and a lively atmosphere, "Bourbon, Bags & Bingo" promises to be a night to remember. Don't miss your chance to secure a spot at this popular event!

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL CRASH

The Findlay Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on November 22, 2024, at approximately 5:25 PM. The crash occurred on State Route 15 at the intersection of Township Road 190 in Amanda Township, Hancock County.

Brian K. Post, age 54, of Findlay, Ohio was operating a 2025 Honda Odyssey northbound on Township Road 190 at State Route 15. Mahamed A. Kadir, age 29, of New Brighton, Minnesota was operating a 2018 Ford F-150 eastbound on State Route 15. Mr. Post was traveling through the intersection and was struck by Mr. Kadir. Sonja R. Dodds-Post, age 60, of Findlay, Ohio was seated in the front passenger seat of the Honda Odyssey.

Mr. Post was pronounced deceased on scene and transported to Blanchard Valley Hospital. Mrs. Dodds-Post was transported to Blanchard Valley Hospital by HANCO EMS where she succumbed to her injuries and was pronounced deceased. Mr. Kadir was treated on scene by HANCO EMS with minor injuries. All occupants were wearing their safety belts at the time of the crash. State

Route 15 in the area of the crash was closed for approximately two hours and thirty minutes, but is now open.

The Patrol was assisted on scene by Hancock County Sheriff's Office, Vanlue Fire Department, HANCO EMS, Life Flight, and B. G. Towing.

The crash remains under investigation.

HOW WEEDS DEAL WITH DROUGHT

Currently, Ohio has experienced the third worst drought, only surpassed by 1930 and 1933. Fall is the driest time of year (August-November) and about 60% of Ohio is still in a severe to exceptional drought. That means that field capacity, the amount of soil water held in the soil after the excess water has drained away, is still very low for next year. After a rain, it generally takes 2-3 days for excess soil water to drain away. The small amount of precipitation (rain, snow) we currently received may help, but it will take considerable moisture to fill up our available soil water holding capacity reserve for growing crops next year.

In Nebraska, a graduate student (Mandeep Singh) studied how weeds handle drought conditions. He studied 89 journal articles with 1,196 paired observations over 30 years. The data was collected all over the world; mainly North America, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Here are his findings on how drought and water stress affects weed production and weed growth.

First, weeds still produce weed seed when soils are dry, just not as much. Weed seed production dropped 50% under moderate water stress (30-60% of field capacity) and 88% under severe drought stress (less than 30% field capacity). While it may not seem like it, weeds are hurt by dry conditions too. Grasses, with their

multiple fine roots generally grow better than broadleaf weeds during a drought. Weed seed still germinate under dry conditions because they do not require a lot of water, they just do not grow as well or produce as many weed seeds.

On growth, above-ground growth or plant height was decreased by 24% with a moderate water stress and 37% with severe water stress. Leaf area decreased, 24% with moderate drought stress and 37% with severe water stress. Total weed biomass decreased 43% under moderate and 44% under severe water stress. Water stress reduces plant growth by reducing the amount of plant available nutrients. How do weeds and plants cope with water stress? Generally, they grow less roots, but grow their roots deeper to access deep soil water.

Here are strategies to deal with water stress expected next year, possibly even 2-3 years yet. First, reduce tillage and keep the ground covered. Each tillage pass loses 0.5 to 1.0 inches of water in the soil surface. Second, keep residue on the soil surface intact. An Ohio study showed that the no-till mulch reduces field evaporation by 18-35%, conserving soil moisture.

Third, kill cover crops early in the spring to conserve moisture. Is it beneficial to not plant cover crops to conserve moisture? Not really. Bare soil loses 6 inches of water while cover crops take up about 6.5 inches of water yearly. However, the cover crop also adds soil organic matter (SOM). Each 1% SOM adds .25 up to 0.5 inches of water to the soil profile. Stopping tillage results very quickly in about a 1% gain in surface SOM. Soils high in SOM store more soil water and tolerate drought much than low SOM fields.

Other strategies: Plant crops early to get good fast root growth before the hot dry weather sets in during the summer months. Consider planting earlier maturing corn. Early corn planted early may mature before moisture

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

stress gets severe. Consider shorter corn varieties and shorter, bushier soybean plants to maximize water usage for crop yield.

A big factor in improving crop yields in dry conditions is reducing soil compaction. Vertical tillage especially, creates several layers of soil compaction zones that roots need to penetrate to access soil water. The best solution is to plant deep rooted cover crops to access potential soil water 20-30 inches deep. Deep rooted brassica cover crop species (radish, kale, and rape) are good. However, oats, Sorghum Sudan, and even cereal rye roots may penetrate soil 30 inches deep. Usually cover crops can penetrate severely compacted areas no more than 0.5-1 foot per year. If tillage is performed, deep wide-spaced subsoilers actually do the least amount of damage in dry conditions, because the soil will not smear.

Scouting for weeds during the growing season is critical. Weeds compete for moisture with the grain crop. Weeds under drought stress take up herbicides less effectively, so killing weeds early and right after a rain when they are actively growing is your best alternative. Avoid glyphosate late in the season, because it enhances drought stress and increases disease on your crops. Investing in irrigation is another strategy. Farmers may need a wetter than normal winter and a little extra snow to improve crop yields next year. Weed Study Source: No-till Farmer.

—James J. Hoorman
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PAULDING COUNTY REPUBLICANS HOST ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL DAVE YOST



The Paulding County Republican Women Officers Sworn in. Pictured here (l-r): Stacey Rinebolt, Shannon Ruschel, Cheryl Stromski and Kathy Wilson

The Paulding County Republicans gathered on December 5, 2024, for their annual Christmas dinner meeting at the Paulding County Senior Center. The evening featured fellowship, celebrations, and an inspiring keynote speech by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost, who hinted at his plans for the future.

Festive Atmosphere and Republican Pride

Attendees enjoyed a warm holiday atmosphere with decorations, a Christmas tree, and carols. The event also included the installation of new officers for the Paulding County Republican Women.

Attorney General Yost officiated the ceremony, commanding the officers for their dedication and encouraging them to embrace their leadership roles in supporting Republican values.

A Memorable Address by Attorney General Dave Yost

Attorney General Yost captivated the audience with a thought-provoking speech that blended humor, storytelling, and a strong message of leadership and accountability. Reflecting on his private-sector background, Yost emphasized the differences between private-sector innovation and government inefficiency.

He recounted the story of the Jefferson Memorial, illustrating how a private-sector mindset can solve problems more effectively and cost-efficiently than a government approach. Yost's tale of "midges, spiders, and birds" humorously highlighted the importance of examining root causes rather than defaulting to expensive, bureaucratic solutions.

A Vision for Ohio's Future
Toward the end of his speech, Yost acknowledged his potential gubernatorial candidacy in 2026, stating, "If you want different results, you have to do something different." He promised to bring a

private-sector approach to leadership, offering Ohioans an alternative path to innovation, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

"Merry Christmas, everybody. Thank you for having me," Yost concluded, earning applause from the audience.

Looking Ahead

The dinner ended on a cheerful note with caroling and camaraderie. Members left the event inspired by Yost's words and eager to support Republican efforts in the coming year. As the party looks forward to the next election cycle, many attendees expressed excitement about Yost's potential gubernatorial campaign and his vision for Ohio's future.

ANTWERP COMMUNITY BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT ANNOUNCED

The Antwerp Community Band invites the West Bend's readers to its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 19, 2024, in the Huber Opera House, Hicksville. On the program:

"O, Holy Night", Bach's "Sleepers, Awake", a holiday medley - "Merry Christmas, Everyone!", "O, Little Town of Bethlehem", "Sleigh Ride" and more.

The Band has been presenting Christmas concerts for more than thirty years. It is our great pleasure to contribute to our community's holiday spirit! As always, there is no charge for the concert but a free will donation will be most welcome. Music is a central part of the Christmas holidays so please join us in our celebration of the most wonderful time of the year!

SANTA CLAUS TO VISIT OAKWOOD FIRE STATION THIS DECEMBER

The Oakwood Fire Station is gearing up for a festive holiday event as Santa Claus himself will be making a special visit on Thursday, December 12, 2024, from 6 PM to 8 PM. This beloved tradition promises an evening full of joy and community spirit.

Families are invited to stop by the fire station located at 201 N. Sixth Street, Oakwood, Ohio, 45873, for a chance to meet Santa and enjoy a variety of holiday activities. The event will feature snacks and refreshments to keep everyone cozy and cheerful. Children are encouraged to bring their Christmas wish lists to share with Santa in person.

In addition to meeting Santa, attendees can enjoy holiday tunes to get into the Christmas spirit and have the opportunity to take a memorable picture with the man in red himself.

The Oakwood Fire Department is thrilled to host this family-friendly event and looks forward to spreading holiday cheer throughout the community. Don't miss this magical evening of festive fun!

For more information, contact the Oakwood Fire Department directly. See you there!

FRIENDS OF GROVER HILL BRANCH LIBRARY PRESENT "BREAKFAST WITH SANTA"

The holiday spirit is alive and well in Grover Hill as the Friends of the Grover Hill Branch Library invite the community to join them for "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 14, 2024.

NEDDERMAN APPOINTED TO SERVE ON OSBA INVESTMENT COMMITTEE



empowering schools to provide exceptional opportunities for students and communities.

Vantage Career Center Superintendent Rick Turner expressed his pride in Nedderman's appointment, stating, "As Vantage Career Center's longest serving active Board of Education member, Mr. Nedderman brings to us a wealth of knowledge, experience, and commitment. These same qualities make him an excellent choice to represent the Northwest Region on the OSBA Investment Committee. He will serve the OSBA and the Northwest Region very well in this capacity."

The Ohio School Boards Association serves Ohio's public school board members and educational leaders, advocating for high-quality public education and offering training, resources, and support. The Northwest Region's Investment Committee plays a crucial role in maintaining the financial health necessary to carry out the association's mission.

This appointment further reflects Vantage Career Center's commitment to cultivating leaders who not only serve the local community but also contribute to the broader educational landscape.

maintenance and upkeep for the library, ensuring it continues to be a valuable resource for the community.

Come hungry, bring your holiday cheer, and help support the library while enjoying a special morning with Santa. The Friends of Grover Hill Branch Library extend their gratitude to everyone who participates and wish all a Merry Christmas!

For more information, contact the Grover Hill Branch Library or stop by the VFW on December 14th. Don't miss this holiday tradition!



EXCITING CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN WOODBURN ON DECEMBER 14TH!

In honor of Allen County Indiana's 200th Anniversary, a Ribbon Cutting for the Monument at the Clock Tower will take place at 10am for the new monument in Woodburn!

SANTA EVENT - 11AM TO 12NOON WOODBURN CLOCK TOWER

Santa Arrives at the Woodburn Clock Tower on an East Central Fire truck Saturday, December 14th @ 11am

SANTA WILL HAND OUT TREATS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Christmas Cookies from Brian's Pizza

Christmas Gift Bags from the Wooburn Library

Chili from Woodburn Main Street

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