

## VAN WERT AND PAULDING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY JOIN FORCES TO BETTER SERVE COMMUNITIES



The Habitat Board members, Andy McMahon, Duane Riethman, Lora Lyons, Laurie Lucas, Mary Clark, Brent Jones, Bob Mutschelknaus, Anthony Marlin and Christopher Bercaw, present at the December 17 meeting discuss the Merge for Efficiency, and renewed dedication to the counties of Paulding and Van Wert.

In an exciting development for residents of Van Wert and Paulding counties, the local Habitat for Humanity affiliates have announced their merger to enhance the efficiency and reach of their operations. The newly unified organization will officially begin operations under its new structure on January 1, 2025.

According to Laurie Lucas, the Executive Director of the merged Habitat for Humanity,

the decision to unite was driven by the challenges both affiliates faced in maintaining compliance with Habitat International's requirements. Both Van Wert and Paulding struggled to meet the standard of building a home every 18 months and maintaining the necessary certifications, including a qualified loan officer and a construction safety officer.

"By merging, we're com-

binning strengths. Paulding is strong in fundraising and outreach, while Van Wert excels in construction and project completion," Lucas explained. The hope is that this synergy will allow the organization to build homes more efficiently and consistently, aiming for one home annually, alternating between the two counties.

The combined board now boasts 14 members, doubling

(Continued on Page 4)

## SARAH NOGGLE RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS OHIO NO-TILL COUNCIL EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD



On December 4, 2024, the Ohio No-Till Council announced Sarah Noggle, an esteemed educator in agriculture and natural resources, as the recipient of the 2024 Outstanding Educator Award. This prestigious recognition highlights

Noggle's exceptional contributions to advancing sustainable farming practices, soil health, and agricultural education in Ohio and beyond.

Noggle was selected from a diverse pool of educators representing elementary, high school, university, and adult education programs across the state. Her ability to engage and inspire learners of all ages, coupled with her expertise in conservation and agricultural sustainability, set her apart as a leader in her field.

As an educator, Noggle serves as a tireless advocate for conservation agriculture, with a focus on no-till practices, soil health, cover crops, and sustainable farming systems. Through her leadership and innovative educational programs, she has empowered countless farmers, landowners, and community members to adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and strengthen the long-

(Continued on Page 5)

## BARGAIN BOX IN HICKSVILLE REOPENS!!

Hurrah! Local shoppers will be glad to learn that the Bargain Box in Hicksville has reopened!

Under new management but you'll still see a lot of familiar faces, AND the merchandise and selling format remain the same as before.

The Hicksville Mennonite Church has assumed ownership of the "Box", taking over after the closure of the hospi-

tal and related enterprises. Continuing as a non-profit, all proceeds will go toward a variety of charitable causes. Donated merchandise may be delivered to the Bargain Box during open hours or by placing it in the shed to the rear of the building.

Hours of operation are: Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday.

The continued support of the Bargain Box is much appreciated! Hicksville's best department store!

## Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Aderman Dental	3
Antwerp Exchange Bank	6
Creative Design & Construction	1
Crystal Creek Concrete	1
Den Herder	2
Den Herder FH – C Holtsberry	2
Den Herder FH – Kelble	2
Derck's Landscaping	10
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
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Five Star Construction	1
Hoover Auction James Wagler	10
Klopfenstein Repair	10
Monroeville Am Leg Bingo	1
MVPO HW Econ Dev loan	11
Paulding Eagles	3
PC Comm Bid Notice	9
PC Court CI24-174	9
PC Court Notice CI 20-139	9
PC Veteran's Service	4
PC WMEA	11
PCHD Food Fees Notice	9
Phoenix Manor	7
PUZZLE – Sudoku	9
Richardson at Pres Church	2
Ron Burt Left Turn	8
Schmucker Construction	1
Straley Insurance	6
TAZ Construction	1
Village of Cecil Meeting Notice	9
Village of Cecil Public Hearing	9
MVPO PC Block Grant Notice	9

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 24

- Christmas Trolley, Waynedale, FW, 1-4pm
- Christmas Eve Service @ St. John Luth. Ch. Hicksville, 6:30p

### December 29

- Lessons & Carols @ St. John Luth Church, Hicksville, 10:15am

### January 1

- Winter Reading Program begins @ PC Carnegie Libraries

### January 8

- Senior Citizen Dinner @ Antwerp VFW, 12Noon
- Postema @ Paulding Library, 10:30am, 4:30pm

### January 9

- Senior Bingo @ Oakwood Library hosted by The Meadows, 11:30 a.m

### January 13

- Essential Oil Class with Judy Hook @ Payne Library, 6pm

### January 14

- Build a Snow Bear @ Payne Library, 3:30–5:00pm

### January 14-16

- FW Farm Show @ Allen Co Coliseum, 9a-5p, 9a-8p, 9a-4p

### February 2

- Paulding Night w/the Komets, Fort Wayne, 5pm



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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## PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION RAISES \$29,900 DURING GIVING TUESDAY

The Paulding County Area Foundation is thrilled to announce that it raised a total of \$29,900 on Giving Tuesday, thanks to the overwhelming generosity of local donors. This annual global

event, held on December 3rd, 2024, was a tremendous success for the foundation, helping to support various local funds that serve to improve the community.

"The Paulding County Area Foundation's mission is to enrich the quality of life for our community and par-

(Continued on Page 2)

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**The West Bend Printing office will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> so our employees may enjoy the Christmas Holiday.**

**Regular business hours resume on December 26<sup>th</sup>.**

**We will also be closed January 1st for New Years Day.**

**Regular business hours resume on January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

### PLEASE NOTE:

There will be **NO** West Bend News published the week of **DECEMBER 30, 2024.**

**Deadline for ads and news for the January 6th, 2025 edition is THURSDAY, JANUARY 2<sup>nd</sup>!**



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## OBITUARIES



PAULDING, OH:  
**Charles B. "Topper" Holtsberry**, age 83, passed away on Friday, December 13, 2024 at his residence.

Topper was born on January 2, 1941 in Hedges, OH to the late Russell and Alice (Miller) Holtsberry. On May 14, 1960 he married his wife, Rae Bland who survives. Topper was born, lived his entire life and passed away in Hedges, OH.

Topper retired from the Paulding department at B.F. Goodrich, Woodburn, IN after 33 years of service. After retirement from B.F. Goodrich, he also worked at Cooper's Hatchery, Baughman Tile, Haviland Tile and worked in maintenance for Jackson Township for 14 years. He would later go on to serve three years as a Jackson Township Trustee. Topper attended the Paulding Church of the Nazarene.

Along with his loving wife, Rae, Topper is survived by his sons, Tim (Deb) Holtsberry, (Defiance, OH and Jeff "Hoss" (Kathy) Holtsberry, Mark Center, OH; daughters, Stacy (Steve) Krutsch, Oakwood, OH and Jodi (Don) Kesler, Jacksonville, FL; brother Rodger (Rose) Holtsberry, Paulding, OH; 8 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Topper was also preceded in death by his siblings, Russell "Jack" Holtsberry, John "Delmar" Holtsberry, Justus Holtsberry, JoAnn Holtsberry, Iona Dysinger and Deloris Yoh.

Funeral service will be held Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH with Pastor Jeremy Thompson officiating. Burial will take place at a later date at Hedges Cemetery, Jackson Township.

Visitation will be from 3:00-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Topper's memory to the Paulding Church of the Nazarene or to CHP Hospice.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.denherderfh.com](http://www.denherderfh.com).



PAULDING, OH:  
**Starlee E. Kelble**, age 85, of Paulding, OH passed away at her daughter's home in Bryan, OH on Sunday, December 15, 2024.

Starlee was born on October 9, 1939 in Woodburn, IN to the late Clarence and Lillie (Hetrick) Miller. On August 15, 1959 she married Allan Kelble who preceded her in death in 2015.

In her earlier years, Starlee worked for Lincoln Life in Fort Wayne, IN as well as making a loving home for her family. She was a member of Divine Mercy Catholic Parish and enjoyed crocheting, puzzles and reading in her spare time.

Starlee will be remembered by her children, Amy (Kris) Knight, Bryan, OH and Nick (Deb) Kelble, Antwerp, OH; sister, Gloria Gerbers, Harlan, IN; grandchildren, Larisa, Andrew, Elaina and Kelby and great grandchild, Mallory.

She was also preceded in death by her brother, Robert Miller; sisters, Edna Parady, Evelyn Klopfenstein and Marian Miller.

Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, Payne, OH with Father Austin Ammanniti officiating. Burial will be in St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery, Payne, OH.

Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19, 2024 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding OH with a wake service at 6:45 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made in Starlee's memory to CHP Hospice.

Online condolences may be shared at [www.denherderfh.com](http://www.denherderfh.com).

OAKWOOD, OH:

**Sharon E. Foust**, 82, of Oakwood, passed away at 6:12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at Paulding County Hospital.

## ANN'S BRIGHT BEGINNERS HOST CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Shown here singing 'We Wish You a Merry Christmas' with American Sign Language are Gatlin Gerschutz and Lenna Sauber.

Ann's Bright Beginnings Preschool held their annual Christmas program recently for family and friends. They sang several songs for a de-

lighted audience, followed with cookies and punch and a visit from Santa! Ann's Bright Beginnings wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

### PREMIER BANK RECEIVES "DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD" AWARD FROM MASTERCARD®



Premier Bank has been awarded the Doing Well by Doing Good Award in the fifth annual Mastercard® Community Institutions Segment Awards for the Bank's efforts in financial literacy & education.

For the past several years, Mastercard® has highlighted impressive achievements from Financial Institutions for the impact they have on their local communities. This Doing Well by Doing Good Award is reflective of all the hard work Premier Bank puts into promoting community service, philanthropy and charitable contributions. It is a testament to the Bank's commitment to making a difference and doing well by doing good in the communities we serve.

"This is an incredible honor from Mastercard® as it recognizes Premier Bank's passion to support local initiatives, events and projects. Whether we are donating our time or resources, we know that it makes our communities stronger," said Gary Small, President & CEO, Premier Bank. "The award is particularly important to us as it reflects our associates' commitment to our annual kindness campaign for the benefit of the clients and communities that we serve."

"Premier's commitment to providing support through its charitable foundation, volunteerism and other investments in the community is high-

lighted in a video series dubbed Kindness Campaign. The campaign's "Powered By (kind) People. Fueled By You." tagline is a reflection of Premier Bank's longstanding commitment to the community. Powered By (kind) People represents the strong sense of passion the Bank's associates have for supporting local communities, coupled with the Bank's commitment to giving back. Fueled By You represents the inspiration that the Bank's clients and communities give them to give back and spread kindness in the places they call home. For more information, please visit [YourPremierBank.com/Kindness](http://YourPremierBank.com/Kindness).

### 2nd ANNUAL WINTER READING PROGRAM AT PC CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is excited to announce the 2nd annual Winter Reading Program, "S'mitten with Reading."

The program will run from January 1 through March 1st, 2025. What better way to spend the cold winter months than snuggled up with a good book. Try a different genre or even a selection from our non-fiction books.

We offer Playaways and Wonderbooks if listening is your thing. Reading 10 minutes a day for the length of the program is 600 minutes. The reading program will be by how much time you spend reading not by the number of books you have read. Prizes will be awarded at the end for the top readers.

The library is also working in conjunction with the Monster Jam Reading Program, Toledo, OH. Just by reading you can earn tickets to the Monster Jam at the Huntington Center in Toledo. More information on this will arrive in January. Get to the library and sign up, receive your reading log and get ready to READ. The staff would love to help you pick out a few books to get you started.

## Scripture of the Week

"And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered."

— Luke 2:1,4-5

### ADVENT: PEACE IN JESUS' NAME



On December 8, Pastor Dwayne Richardson delivered a heartfelt sermon titled "Advent - Peace in Jesus' Name," focusing on the profound gift of peace that comes through Christ. Drawing from Luke 2:25-38, Pastor Richardson reflected on the story of Simeon, a devout man who held the infant Jesus and declared he could now "depart in peace" after witnessing the fulfillment of God's promise.

Pastor Richardson began by addressing the universal human longing for peace, hope, and fulfillment. He noted how many people search for satisfaction in worldly possessions or achievements but remain unfulfilled. True peace, he emphasized, comes only from Christ. He described this peace as a deep, abiding assurance that anchors believers, even amid life's uncertainties.

Central to the sermon was the theme of surrender. Pastor Richardson urged the congregation to release control of their struggles and trust God with their lives. "The battle is not yours; it's the Lord's," he reminded, echoing the importance of humbling oneself and allowing God to work through every situation.

He encouraged believers to cultivate a daily habit of prayer and communication

with God, surrendering fears, doubts, and insecurities. "When you allow God to fight your battles, you'll find peace in every situation," he said, pointing out that peace is not the absence of problems but the presence of God in the midst of them.

Pastor Richardson challenged listeners to become bearers of God's peace, bringing love, comfort, and light into the spaces they inhabit. "When you walk into a room, if there is no peace, you bring it," he declared, emphasizing that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to embody Christ's love and peace in their daily lives.

Highlighting scriptures like John 14:27 and Isaiah 9:6, Pastor Richardson described Christ as the "Prince of Peace," whose birth is a gift to humanity. He reminded the congregation that peace is not merely a seasonal sentiment but a lasting inheritance for God's children. He encouraged them to embrace this peace as a present from God, a "deposit" of what is to come in eternity.

In closing, Pastor Richardson invited the congregation to reflect on the significance of Christ's peace in their lives. He encouraged them to let go of worldly anxieties, embrace God's presence, and walk confidently in the assurance of His love. "Peace is not found under the tree—it's found in Christ," he proclaimed, urging everyone to celebrate this Advent season with a heart full of gratitude and trust in the Prince of Peace.



(Continued from Page 1)

participating in this event helps serve that mission," said Executive Director Lisa McClure. "We are truly grateful to the donors who came together to make this year's Giving Tuesday such a success."

The funds raised during Giving Tuesday will go directly toward the foundation's mission of enhancing local education, supporting community development, providing grants for vital programs, and addressing the needs of underserved populations in the region.

"We are proud to be part of such a caring and compassionate community. The generosity shown on Giving Tuesday demonstrates the strength of our collective commitment to making Paulding County a better place for all its residents," added McClure.

For more information about the Paulding County Area Foundation, including ways to get involved or make a donation, visit [www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com](http://www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com).

[www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com/individualfunds](http://www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com/individualfunds) or contact Lisa McClure at [PauldingFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:PauldingFoundation@gmail.com). The Paulding County Area Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization (EIN 34-1399690) dedicated to improving the quality of life for residents of Paulding County, Ohio. Donations can be mailed to the organization at: 101 E. Perry St. Paulding, OH 45879.

**Pastor Dwayne Richardson**

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

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**

**Please come join us for a wonderful service.**

**Visit Youtube channel, Predest Peace & Love,**

**— Pastor Dwayne Richardson**



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## THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

### Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker

I have enjoyed singing and remembering the verses to this Christmas Carol for many years, but always wondered what the meaning was. First of all a partridge in a pear tree was mentioned in all 12 verses so what does a partridge represent?

While playing Christmas songs at an assisted living facility, we all tried singing and remembering all the birds, partridges, turtle doves, leaping Lords and maids milking in order. But none of us seemed to know the meaning of the words.

Then a gentleman looked it up with the help of Google and shared the following info with us. So what does the 12 days of Christmas represent?

Discover the meaning of the gift for each of the 12 days of Christmas that relate to the fundamentals of the Christian faith now as you read the meanings of the verses.

First the Partridge in a pear tree:

#### 1. A Partridge in a Pear Tree

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

#### 2. Two Turtledoves

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So, in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of the Christian faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.

#### 3. Three French Hens

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift harkens back to the love chapter written by the Apostle Paul. It also represents the Holy Trinity: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### 4. Four Calling Birds

One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out these fowl are the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

#### 5. Five Gold Rings

The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah.

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Six Geese a-Laying

These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the Bible. Each egg is a day in creation when God "hatched" or formed the world.

1. God created the heavens and the earth
2. God created the sky and seas

3. God created the land and plants
4. God created the sun, moon, and stars
5. God created fish and birds
6. God created land animals and man
7. Seven Swans a-Swimming

It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit:

1. Prophecy
2. Ministry
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leading



#### 7. Compassion

As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for spiritual gifts.

#### 8. Eight Maids-a-Milking

As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The Eight Maids represent the 8 Beatitudes.

#### 9. Nine Ladies Dancing

These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. They are as follows

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Faithfulness
8. Gentleness
9. Self-control

#### 10. Ten Lords-a-leaping

This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the ten commandments was fairly straightforward to Christians.

#### 11. Eleven Pipers Piping

This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of the dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, only eleven men carried out the gospel message. Therefore, the Eleven Pipers Piping signify the 11 faithful disciples

1. Simon (whom He named Peter)
2. Andrew
3. James
4. John
5. Philip
6. Bartholomew
7. Matthew
8. Thomas
9. James, son of Alphaeus
10. Simon, who was called the Zealot
11. Judas, son of James

12. Judas Iscariot was later replaced with faithful Matthias.

### 12. Twelve Drummers Drumming

The final gift is tied directly to the church. The drummers are the 12 points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. It begins

1. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of

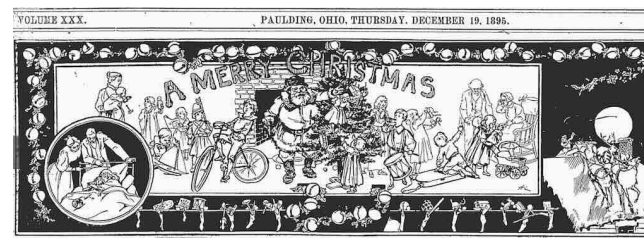
heaven and earth.

2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

I found this interpretation of the song very interesting and for once it became clear what I was singing.

Merry Christmas Everyone and if you can sing The 12 Days of Christmas, I'll Give You A Penny for Your Thoughts

## YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



December 1895: A Santa-themed Christmas greeting to local newspaper readers.

### By: PAULDING COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

#### Christmases Past

From the Paulding Democrat of Dec. 26, 1878:

Tuesday, Dec. 24, the coldest night we have had this winter. Thermometer marks 11° below zero.

Several canal boats have cast anchor in the port of Antwerp, and will lay here during the winter.

Board of Health Notice: There being now prevailing in our community Scarlet Fever, we suggest that children be kept out of all public entertainments, and that the public schools be suspended until ordered to resume by the Board.

Items are kind of scarce this week at Cecil on account of this being Christmas week. Folks are kind o' busy preparing for Christmas.

From the Paulding Democrat of Dec. 25, 1879:

Heavy shower of sleet Sunday evening. Very little snow for the time of year.

There has been good skating on the canal during the past week.

Toys, Toys, Toys, Books, Toys, Books, Alphabet blocks, 5 cents per box at the People's Drug Store.

A candy and nut stand will be in order for the young people, at J.P. Gasser's, New Year's Eve.

The young people about town were enjoying the skating at this place Saturday afternoon and evening.

From the Antwerp Argus of Dec. 25, 1884:

Neither of our churches will have a Christmas tree.

The ladies of the Presbyterian Church will give a supper at the courthouse, New Year's Eve.

Antwerp presented an old time appearance last Saturday. Our streets were crowded from early dawn until late in the evening with teams and pedestrians.

Paulding turned out pretty lively last Saturday to the skating rink, some 20 or 30 being in attendance. The young folks not only enjoyed the rink, but the delightful sleighing.

The turkey gobbler that passed Thanksgiving safely should prepare for the worst during the holiday season.

From the Payne Reflector of Dec. 25, 1902:

A delightful stow storm yesterday morning furnished excellent sleighing for Christmas.

Some very pretty and attractive window displays are noticeable about town these days. Our merchants are

fully alive to the needs and their stocks of Christmas goods are the finest ever brought into the county.

From the Paulding Democrat of Dec. 26, 1907:

The young people's dancing club of Antwerp will give a dance Thursday evening next, Dec. 31st, when they expect to dance away the happy hours until 1908 is ushered in. Fine music will also be a feature.

From the Paulding County Republican of Dec. 26, 1918:

The 13 branches and auxiliaries of Paulding County Red Cross Chapter who inspected Christmas cartons for overseas soldiers did commendable work. There were mailed from all places 328 boxes.

From the Paulding Democrat of Dec. 25, 1924:

Damage to telephone lines as a result of the sleet and ice storm that gripped a large section of the country last Friday and Saturday was unprecedented at some points, according to statements emanating from several of the local telephone headquarters in this locality. In the vicinity of Antwerp, 300 telephone poles were down, over 80 of them being between that place and Hicksville.

Last Sunday afternoon's Christmas song service, given by the Evening Musical, assisted by men from the various church choirs, at the Grand Theatre, was enjoyed by a good sized attendance, the lower floor being filled, with many in the balcony.

On the afternoon of New Year's Day, from 2:30 to 5:00, a community reception will be given by the ladies of the Tuesday Club at the home of Mrs. Eugene Hardesty. The object of the reception is to promote the community spirit, which should be particularly dominant in the hearts of good citizens at this yuletide season.

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### MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



#### By: Mark Holtsberry

Blanchard Bert Reeb was born April 21, 1897 in Antwerp, Ohio. The son of Berton Clayton "Bert: Reeb and Irene Iva (Fauver) Reeb born February 17, 1879 in Ridgeville, Henry Co., Ohio. This couple was married in 1896. This marriage did not last.

By 1900, Blachard and his mother were living with her parents Wilson and Catherine (Kigar) Fauver. On December 15, 1902, Irene married a fella named Edward A. Swilley. They moved to Hicksville, Ohio. In 1910, Blanchard was still living in Hicksville on Main Street, was a student in school and had stepbrothers, John and Edward Swilley.

On July 15, 1916, Blanchard signed up with the National Guard and served with Company E. 2nd Ohio National Guard. He was promoted to Machine Gun Company, 2nd Infantry Ohio National Guard and served until September 1, 1917. Blanchard then served with the Headquarters Company 2nd Infantry Ohio National Guard until October 4, 1917, he was then sent to Company E. 1st Training Battalion 2nd Depot Brigade serving until October of 1917.

He was transferred to Company B. 146th United States Infantry to November 15, 1917. He was sent overseas June 15, 1918. He was promoted to Private 1st Class January 16, 1918, but was demoted to Private April 1, 1918. He sailed on the ship "Leviathan" from Hoboken, New Jersey. He served in the Meuse-Argonne and Ypres-Lys defenses.

sive sectors and was slightly wounded on October 3, 1918.

Blanchard was promoted back to Private 1st Class, January 11, 1919, Corporal March 5, 1919 and back to Private March 15, 1919. He was Honorably Discharged April 13, 1919.

By 1920, Blanchard was living with his mother, Irene, step father Edward, grandmother Kate Fauver, step brothers John E. and Edward H. Swilley, aunt Minnie (Fauver) Root and cousin Eugene F. Root, on West Arthur Street, Hicksville.

Blanchard was a laborer, working for the Electric Manufacturing Company and on July 25, 1920, he married Mytle Iva May Spiegel, born December 8, 1901 in Defiance, Ohio. The daughter of Frank O. Spiegel and Lura Lone (Hastings) Spiegel. On December 27, 1923, Blanchard and Mytle became parents of Blachard Bert Reeb Jr.

On June 15, 1924, while working as an electrician for Inland Steel Company, Indiana Harbor, a suburb of Chicago, Blanchard and 28 other workers were working in the power station of the steel mill. Blanchard and two other workers were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes. This was ruled as an industrial accident and death occurred at 10:20 A.M. June 15, 1924.

Blanchard was buried in Chicago, Illinois, burial site unknown. His wife never remarried and continued to live in the Chicago area, working various jobs. She passed away January 26, 1981 in Chicago is buried in Oakwoods Cemetery, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. I am guessing that is where Blanchard is buried.

As for son, Blanchard Jr., he became a doctor, served in World War Two December 13, 1943-March 22, 1946 and also served January 1, 1951-September 30, 1952. He married Jean Garrand Lansdown on May 30, 1949 and became a father to John Garrand Reeb, born in 1959.

Dr. Blanchard Bert Reeb Jr. passed away January 12, 2005 and is buried in Grace-land Cemetery, Valpariso, Indiana.

...Until Next Time!

## Paulding Eagles 2405

206 W. Perry Street - Paulding, OH

### Events & Specials



#### New Year's Eve Party

Smoked Porkchop Dinner and Rapid Fire

December 31 Served from 5:00 - 7:30 PM

\$18

Live Band Starts at 8:00 PM

\$18

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# WAYNE TRACE WELCOMES NEW STEAM CENTER EQUIPMENT



Pictured (l-r): Terry Buffington, Miss Whitman, Grady Helms, Elliot Parady, Santa, Jonah Sinn, Mrs. Miesle, KaMaury Sullivan, Miss Sinn.

Wayne Trace Jr/Sr High School students and staff are thrilled about the recent addition to their STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) center, made possible through a partnership with Perry Pro Tech in Fort Wayne.

Junior Ryan Parker played a pivotal role in this exciting development. During a fall visit to Perry Pro Tech, Ryan discovered innovative ideas to enhance the STEAM center. "I thought there would be a lot of projects and potential,"

said Ryan, a student in the Art Technology class. He not only showcased some of the projects developed using Perry Pro Tech machines but also envisioned how additional equipment could benefit his classmates.

This week, Ryan's vision became a reality when the school received a new flatbed cutter, a gift that felt like an early Christmas present. The machine will be utilized by multiple classes, including Visual Design, Engineering Design, and Art Technology.

The Cross-Categorical class is already planning to create treat boxes for their coffee cart business, a project aimed at promoting vocational skills.

The school's excitement is palpable, with students and educators eager to return in January to start new creative endeavors using the flatbed cutter. Partnerships with companies like Perry Pro Tech exemplify the collaborative spirit driving success at Wayne Trace.

## ANTWERP CIC DISCUSSES PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT, DEMOLITIONS

The Antwerp Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) met on December 16 at the Main Street Business Facility to address ongoing projects, organizational updates, and ideas to better support small businesses in the community. The meeting, attended by CIC members and officials, focused on fostering economic development while addressing administrative matters.

Property Development and Demolition Updates

The CIC discussed progress on a property located at 204 Road 43, which is slated for demolition through the county land bank. An updated access agreement was approved, naming CIC officers Tom and Tyson as authorized signers to expedite the process. The demolition is

part of ongoing efforts to clean up vacant or dilapidated properties to encourage future development.

Additionally, members reviewed general liability insurance coverage, confirming the policy terms and limits.

Administrative Business

Financial Review: The CIC reviewed and approved financial reports covering October through December, including expenditures and account transfers. A reimbursement for prior roadwork with Brian Excavating was discussed, with plans to recover 72% of the costs through state programs.

Resignations: The board formally accepted the resignation of CIC member Denise, noting that the position would be re-evaluated in January.



Members acknowledged Denise's contributions and affirmed her welcome to return to the board if she chooses.

Meeting Schedule: The CIC discussed scheduling challenges and expressed a preference for holding regular meetings on Thursdays moving forward. A final decision will be made in January to determine whether meetings will occur monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly.

Executive Session  
The meeting concluded with an executive session to discuss the sale of property.

The CIC will reconvene in January to finalize its 2025 schedule and address ongoing projects, ensuring the organization continues to support Antwerp's economic and community development goals.

Following an executive session, CIC members returned to open session and approved a motion granting CIC President Tom VanVlerah the authority to negotiate the terms of a property sale, referred to as the "Schneck property." The motion included eliminating the payback period as part of the negotiations. Tom was also authorized to approve the finalized terms based on discussions held during the executive session.

The CIC emphasized the importance of progressing efficiently on the sale to ensure beneficial results for the village and the organization.

The CIC set its next meeting for Thursday, January 23, 2024, at 6:00 PM, to continue discussions on projects, financials, and CIC initiatives. Members expressed a commitment to improving attendance and engagement for upcoming sessions to ensure a quorum and steady progress on CIC priorities.

The meeting adjourned with members expressing optimism for the upcoming year and plans to revisit key initiatives supporting local development and business growth.

## HYLANT, PARKVIEW HEALTH, AND BUTLER UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO ADDRESS RISING HEALTHCARE COSTS

Hylant, Parkview Health, and Butler University are partnering to launch an innovation challenge aimed at reducing healthcare costs. The initiative will begin with an event in April 2025 at Butler University, where student teams will analyze data to identify key factors driving healthcare spending. In a second phase, an Innovation Competition will invite forward-thinking solutions for addressing rising healthcare spending based on the findings from the first phase.

Hoosiers suffer from higher rates of chronic conditions and significantly higher mortality rates compared to residents in neighboring states. These disparities result in overall higher healthcare costs and highlight the critical need for effective, lower-cost interventions to improve healthcare outcomes before acute care is needed.

Building on Parkview Health's successful history of innovation challenges, a "Datapalooza" kickoff event will allow student teams to analyze Medicaid patient data provided by the State of Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration. The student teams will be tasked with identifying key factors driving high healthcare costs, including specific health conditions and demographic influences.

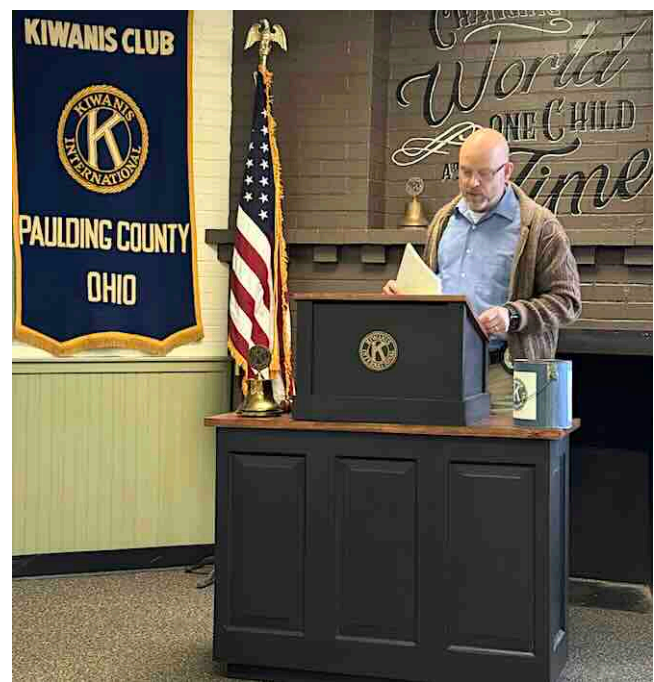
Leveraging the factors identified during the Datapalooza, an Innovation Competition will solicit groundbreaking solutions to effectively reduce healthcare spending. Innovation Competition semi-finalists will be offered the opportunity to participate in an Accelerator program, or a program that provides resources and support for early-stage startups. The challenge concludes with a pitch competition, where Accelerator participants present their innovations for final judging and additional opportunities.

Hylant, an insurance brokerage firm with a deep understanding of employer perspectives on healthcare costs, joins this collaborative effort saying that the partnership reflects their commitment to helping employers and individuals manage risk in ways that not only protect their assets but also improve their overall well-being.

"This initiative is a great reflection of what we stand for at Hylant," Nikki Galbraith, President of Hylant Fort Wayne, said. "We're proud to partner with Parkview and Butler to drive forward innovative solutions that align with our mission of making a positive impact on healthcare."

Decreasing healthcare costs is an important issue for Parkview Health, which committed in 2020 to \$1 billion in rate reductions over five years. As the largest employer in northeast Indiana and a state leader in quality and patient satisfaction, Parkview Health views the partnership with Butler and Hylant as a

## MCMASTER SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding County was privileged to have Andrew McMaster, Family Resource Center Director/Truancy Pre-Court Coordinator, Juvenile Court of Paulding County, as the guest speaker at the December 12, 2024, club meeting. Andrew came at the invitation of Harvey Hyman, Paulding County Court of Common

Pleas Probate and Juvenile Division Judge. Andrew spoke to the Kiwanians about the Family Resource Centers purpose and the services that are offered through the system. The center provides services by referring youth and families to Family and Children First Council for parent education, mentoring and much more.

natural extension of its commitment to furthering measures that support cost reduction.

"Preventive care, aligned with the social determinants of health, is crucial to reducing and avoiding expensive healthcare procedures and treatments. We're excited to support a bold initiative that aligns with our mission to inspire well-being," said Sarah GiaQuinta, senior vice president for community health and equity, Parkview Health. "This challenge will bring together diverse perspectives to address one of healthcare's most pressing issues."

The initiative is equally important to Butler University, a leader in health sciences education. Each year, Butler provides hundreds of graduates to the healthcare field through its College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (COPHS).

"Butler is committed to

addressing the ongoing challenges in our healthcare systems," Bob Soltis, Dean of Butler's COPHS, said. "We are launching a new strategic direction in health professions education that includes new academic programs, reimagined partnerships, and a commitment to community engagement. Our portfolio of new programs, which includes the launch of a B.S. in Nursing program in 2025, will focus on addressing the social determinants of health to better serve our community. This innovation challenge underscores our efforts to prepare the next generation of healthcare leaders by exploring innovative solutions to reduce healthcare costs."

Parkview, Butler, and Hylant invite all interested parties to participate in the Innovation Competition. Additional information will be shared in the coming months.

(Continued from Page 1)

its capacity from the previous seven-member boards in each county. This expanded leadership structure is expected to enhance decision-making and streamline operations. The Paulding office will serve as the central hub for both counties, eliminating the need for a secondary office in Van Wert.

All donations will remain local, ensuring that contributions designated for Paulding County will stay within Paulding, while Van Wert contributions will directly benefit its community. For donors who do not specify, funds will be allocated based on the greatest need, with 100% of donations going toward building homes.

The first build under the merged entity is slated to break ground in Van Wert in late April 2025, followed by a project in Paulding County. Applications for the next home in Van Wert will open on January 6 and run through February 20.

Residents looking to donate, volunteer, or apply for housing can contact Habitat for Humanity through their

new email address, habitat-pvw@gmail.com, or by phone at 419-789-8902. A new website and Facebook page are also in the works to provide updates and additional ways to engage with the organization.

Lucas is optimistic about the future, stating, "This merger will help us reach more families in need, ensuring they have safe, affordable housing. By working together, we can make a bigger impact in both communities."

For those interested in volunteering, whether on the construction site or through other means, the organization welcomes all support. With a focus on collaboration and community, the newly merged Habitat for Humanity is ready to build brighter futures in Van Wert and Paulding counties.

Three major fundraising events are confirmed for 2025, including the Golf Outing on June 7; The Hog Roast on October 23, and the Van Wert BBQ on September 6. Be sure to read the West Bend News for all upcoming Habitat events!

## The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285



## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES NOVEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



The honored students pictured are as follows: Gabby Stork (Freshman), Esperanza Klin (Sophomore), Addy Hunt (Junior), Marley Parrett (Senior)

Paulding High School proudly recognizes its November Students of the Month for their outstanding achievements and positive contributions to the school community.

These students have demonstrated exceptional

dedication to academics, leadership, and school spirit. Paulding High School continues to celebrate its students' hard work and success, fostering a culture of achievement and recognition. Congratulations to all the honorees!

(Continued from Page 1)

term viability of agricultural operations.

A cornerstone of Noggle's work has been her commitment to fostering meaningful connections between farmers and agricultural professionals. Her efforts in Extension programming have built bridges between research and application, ensuring that evidence-based practices reach the hands of those who steward the land. Noggle's dedication to local and statewide initiatives, including her work with cover crops and farm stress, exemplifies her holistic approach to serving Ohio's agricultural community.

In addition to her direct educational contributions, Noggle is a recognized leader on national and regional teams, including the North Central Regional Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) Team, the National Soil Health Nexus Team, and the Midwest Cover Crops Council. Her work reflects a deep commitment to advancing the principles of conservation agriculture and supporting the farmers and agricultural professionals who sustain Ohio's rural economies.

The Ohio No-Till Council commended Noggle's efforts, stating, "Sarah Noggle is a true advocate for conser-

vation and education. Her innovative and practical approaches to agricultural challenges have had a lasting impact on the farming community. She embodies the values of this award."

The Ohio No-Till Council's objectives align with Noggle's work. These objectives include:

- Bringing together agricultural people who have common interests.
- Promoting soil health practices in Ohio, with no soil disturbance except for planting and fertilizer injection, the use of cover crops, and adherence to the 4 R's of fertilizer application.
- Collaborating with researchers to promote on-farm academic research and aggressive investigations into practices that improve soil health and increase net income.
- Organizing programs, field days, and educational events for farmers, landowners, agency personnel, and others.
- Cooperating with agencies such as Extension, USDA, ODNR, SWCDs, and other groups to advance shared goals.
- Sharing ideas, equipment innovations, and proven technologies among members and the agricultural community.

• Preserving the history of and promoting the progress in no-till farming practices while increasing public awareness of their benefits.

• Representing a collective voice for issues affecting no-till systems.

Noggle's work exemplifies these values. Her commitment to advancing conservation agriculture has made a lasting impact on Ohio's agricultural community.

Upon receiving the honor, Noggle expressed her gratitude: "I am deeply humbled by this recognition. Working alongside farmers and agricultural professionals to improve soil health and promote sustainable practices is my passion. This award is a testament to the incredible collaborations and partnerships that make this work possible."

The Outstanding Educator Award is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates exceptional dedication to advancing no-till and sustainable agriculture practices through education and outreach. Sarah Noggle joins an esteemed

group of educators who have shaped the future of conservation agriculture in Ohio. Noggle serves as the Extension Educator for Agriculture and Natural Resources in Paulding County.

For more information about Sarah Noggle's work or the Ohio No-Till Council, please contact Randall Reeder at reeder.1@osu.edu

About the Ohio No-Till Council

The Ohio No-Till Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting no-till farming systems and sustainable agriculture practices. By advocating for innovative techniques and providing educational resources, the Council supports farmers in achieving long-term profitability and environmental stewardship.

For additional information on the Paulding County Extension Office agricultural and natural resources programs, contact Sarah Noggle, Paulding County Extension Educator, Ag, and Natural Resources, at noggle.17@osu.edu. Individuals can also walk into the OSU Extension Office at 503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, or call 419-399-8225.

### WOODLAN FFA ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF

The Woodlan FFA would like to announce that last week we raised a grand total of \$950 at our chili supper! We are very grateful for everyone who came and supported our FFA! We also want to give a big shout out to all of our sponsors: Milan Center, Truland Equipment, Walt and Pam Werling, Peggy and Brian Meyer, Dozer Werks Excavation, Advanced Grain Farms, Shane Mumma, Kurtz Produce, and Nahrwold Farms!

On November 21st we held our November chapter meeting. Thank you to everyone who participated in that meeting! Our next big event will be our welding competitions on Saturday, November 23rd, and following that, on Monday, November 25th we are also participating in entomology, forestry, and crop competitions. We wish all of our competitors the best of luck!

### TIME TO CONSIDER A BUSINESS RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you're a business owner, you're always thinking about the days ahead. What can I do to boost sales in the next year? What trends should I be watching? What's the forecast for my industry? But there's one element of the future you might be overlooking: your retirement plan.

Consider these advantages of establishing a retirement plan for your business:

- You'll build resources for your retirement. You might sell your business one day, but can you count on that to fund your retirement? By investing in a retirement plan for many years, you can help accumulate the resources you will need to enjoy life as a retiree.
- You can help your business attract and retain employees. In a tight labor market, you'll want to employ all the advantages you can to attract and keep good employees — and a retirement plan can help.
- You can gain tax benefits. Your contributions to a retirement plan — on behalf of yourself and your employees — can be tax deductible. Plus, you can get tax credits for starting a new plan.

Here are some retirement plans to consider:

- Owner-only 401(k) — This plan is available to self-employed individuals and business owners with no full-time employees other than themselves or a spouse. You may even be able to choose a Roth option for your 401(k), which allows you to make after-tax contributions that can grow tax free. In 2024, the combined employee and employer contribution limit was \$69,000, or \$76,500 for those 50 or older. These limits are likely to rise in 2025.

• Personal defined benefit plan — You can establish a pension plan, also known as a defined benefit plan, for yourself if you're self-employed or own your own business. For 2024, the annual defined pension benefit for a business owner cannot exceed the lesser of \$275,000 or 100% of their average compensation for the previous three highest consecutive calendar years.

- SEP IRA — If you have just a few employees or are

self-employed with no employees, you may want to consider an SEP IRA. In 2024, your contribution limit was 25% of your salary or \$69,000, whichever was less. The percentage of your salary you contribute to your SEP IRA is the same percentage of your eligible employees' salaries you must contribute to their SEP IRAs.

• SIMPLE IRA — A SIMPLE IRA is easy to set up and maintain, but while it may be advantageous for your employees, it's less generous to you, in terms of allowable contributions, than an owner-only 401(k) or a SEP-IRA. In 2024, you could contribute up to \$16,000 to a SIMPLE IRA, or \$19,500 if you are 50 or older. You must put in 2% of your employees' salaries, regardless of whether they contribute, or match their contributions dollar for dollar, up to 3% of their salaries.

And keep this in mind: The SECURE 2.0 legislation has made it possible for you to offer a Roth version of a SEP or SIMPLE IRA. Although contributions to either Roth account are not deductible, earnings and withdrawals are tax free, provided you (and your employees) are at least 59½ and have had your account at least five years.

To learn more about these and other business retirement plans, you might want to contact a financial professional. But don't wait too long — the sooner you start preparing for your retirement — and helping your employees plan for theirs — the better.

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



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### READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

#### 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), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch

**Edgerton:** USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)

**Grover Hill:** N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General

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

**Ney:** Marathon

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

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

#### PC Carnegie Library

**Payne:** Village offices, Panchos, Vancrest of Payne, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Puckerbrush Pizza, Maramart, Payne Library

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

**Van Wert:** CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Orchard Tree

#### INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

**Grabill:** Save-A-Lot/Grabill Country Sales, Grabill Hardware, Farm Building Supply

**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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## WAYNE TRACE DOMINATES VAN WERT IN GIRLS' BASKETBALL, 44-23



Raider junior Lexi Moore is able to get in to score two points for the home team! More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Wayne Trace girls' basketball team delivered a commanding performance Tuesday night, defeating Van Wert 44-23 on their home court. From the opening tip to the final whistle, Wayne Trace controlled the game, showcasing an impressive blend of sharp shooting, defensive tenacity, and teamwork that left Van Wert struggling to keep up.

Wayne Trace set the tone early, jumping out to a strong lead in the first quarter through a series of well-executed offensive plays and suffocating defense. By halftime, they had built a comfortable double-digit advantage, thanks to their ability to capitalize on turnovers and dominate the boards. Every attempt by Van Wert to mount a comeback was met with equal resistance, as Wayne Trace maintained their intensity throughout the game.

Emma Walls led the charge for Wayne Trace, scoring a game-high 12 points. Walls' ability to find open looks and finish consistently kept Van Wert on their heels. Meanwhile, Macy Linder was a force under the basket, pulling down eight rebounds that gave Wayne Trace numerous second-chance opportunities.

Haley Swary provided steady leadership as the team's playmaker, dishing out six assists

while contributing seven points of her own.

On the other side, Van Wert struggled to find a rhythm against Wayne Trace's disciplined defense. Lydia Smith emerged as the bright spot for her team, scoring 10 points and showing grit despite the uphill battle. Sarah Morgan added to the effort with six rebounds, but Van Wert's 15 turnovers and difficulty in converting scoring opportunities proved to be their undoing.

Wayne Trace's efficiency was evident in their 48% shooting from the field and their ability to limit turnovers to just nine, compared to Van Wert's 35% shooting and 15 turnovers. The hosts also dominated the boards, out-rebounding Van Wert 30-22, which helped them control the pace of the game and secure the victory.

Fans in the stands were treated to a stellar performance by Wayne Trace, as the team celebrated a well-earned win. For Van Wert, it was a tough night on the road, but the effort and determination shown by their players did not go unnoticed.

Wayne Trace's dominant showing serves as a testament to their preparation and execution, earning them a well-deserved moment of glory in front of their home crowd.

## KNIGHTS GET VICTORY OVER WARRIORS

Non-league girls basketball action took place at Woodlan High School Tuesday evening where Norwell posted a 62-51 victory over the host Lady Warriors.

The visiting Knights jumped in front to start and never looked back, opening a 22-9 advantage after eight minutes of action.

Each team scored 16 markers in the second stanza to give Norwell a 38-25 half-time advantage before Woodlan cut into the deficit in the third quarter.

The Lady Warriors bucketed 16 points compared to Norwell's 13, slicing the Lady Knights lead to 51-41 entering the final stanza.

However, the Wells County squad put the game away by outscoring Woodlan

11-10 in the fourth quarter.

Vanessa Rosswurm topped the Norwell cause with 27 points in the contest and Macie Saalfrank added 20 markers for the Lady Knights.

Ashley Waldman and Jada Dale each bucketed five points for Norwell with Addie Norris and Alivia Green picking up two markers apiece. Isabella Swineford also hit a free throw to aid the Knight cause.

Alyssa Anderson paced Woodlan with 33 points in the contest and Brooke Kneubuhler chipped in 13 markers.

McKenna Goble added three points for the Lady Warriors and Reagan Widenhoefer recorded two points.

Makenna Smith topped Woodlan with seven rebounds with Kneubuhler recording a double-double after totaling ten assists. Smith also had three steals for Woodlan.

## PIRATES ROLL TO THIRD WIN



Junior Grady Barton pushes his way into the key and shoots the ball, scoring 2 points for the Panthers! More pictures at westbendnews.net

Former Northwest Conference counterparts Bluffton and Paulding hooked up in a non-league boys basketball contest Tuesday night at the 'Jungle' with the visiting Pirates rolling to a 71-39 victory.

The visitors dominated the opening stanza and never looked back as Bluffton grabbed a commanding 17-4 advantage at the end of one quarter.

In the second stanza, the Pirates pushed the lead wider with a 21-point period while holding the Panthers to a dozen markers in giving Bluffton a 38-16 halftime advantage.

Bluffton extended the margin in the third period, picking up 17 points as the Allen County squad pushed the lead to 55-27 entering the final quarter.

Kain Wright topped a quartet of double-digit scorers for the Pirates with 17 markers while Terron Boblitt chipping in 15 markers.

Blake Sommers contributed 14 points for Bluffton and Marek Donaldson finished with a dozen markers to aid the Pirate cause.

Bean Ginther (five), Brody Sommers (three), Landen Worcester (three) and Lane

Ginther (two) recorded the final Pirate points of the contest.

Blake Rhonehouse paced Paulding with a dozen markers and Grady Barton chipped in six points.

Other scorers for the maroon and white were Jalen Manz (four), Kane Jones (four), Gannon Parrett (three), Jordan Manz (two), Xander Kuckuck (two), Peyton Manz (two), Max Daeger (two) and Luke Beckman (two).

## BIG GREEN COAST TO WIN OVER ARCHERS

Visiting Ottoville opened a big lead after one quarter and the Big Green never looked back in coasting to a 58-41 win over host Antwerp Tuesday in non-conference boys basketball play.

The Putnam County squad led 18-7 at the end of eight minutes of action and expanded that margin to 37-13 at the midway point of the contest.

Ottoville pushed the advantage to 49-22 at the end of three periods before settling on the 58-41 victory.

Landon Horstman and Brandon Calvelage led the

## LADY BULLDOGS DOMINATE ROUTE 49 TOURNAMENT OPENER AGAINST ANTWERP



Edgerton's Alivia Farnham in the 2nd quarter puts up a shot for a Bulldog basket in the second quarter. More pictures at westbendnews.net



Antwerp senior Caroline Rohrs intercepts a pass and turns the turnover into two points! More pictures at westbendnews.net

The Edgerton Lady Bulldogs showcased their depth and offensive prowess Wednesday night, defeating the Antwerp Lady Archers 58-38 in the Route 49 Tournament at Edgerton High School.

The Bulldogs surged ahead early, outscoring Antwerp 18-4 in the first quarter. Led by Katilyn Burke's commanding

14-point performance and Gretchen Keppeler's versatile play with 13 points and a critical free throw, Edgerton maintained control throughout the game. The Lady Bulldogs' balanced scoring attack, complemented by Casey Everetts' three three-pointers, kept Antwerp on their heels.

Antwerp struggled to find rhythm in the first quarter but

way for the Big Green with 14 and 11 points, respectively.

Matthew Horstman (nine), Ashton Miller (nine), Garrett Trentman (eight), Nick Quartana (three), Joe Leis (two) and Alex Leis (two) completed the scoring for the Putnam County squad.

Zaine McMichael buck-

eted 14 points to top the Archers and Tavin Sholl chipped in ten markers.

Others finding the scoring column for the blue and white were Keegan Gray-Wyckoff (nine), Weston Rhonehouse (four), Drew Eaken (two), Aiden Lichty (one) and Hampton Rogge (one).

*Silent Night*  
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# WAYNE TRACE KIMMEL BROTHERS TAKE FIRST



The Wayne Trace Raider Wrestlers wrestled at the 2024 Lincolnview Invite on December 14, 2024. The team was represented by eight wrestlers. Of the eight wrestlers, two took the championship. The day ended with 78.5 team points.

In the 113-pound weight class, sophomore Colton Kimmel pinned Katelynn Braun in 8 seconds. In his second match of the day, Kimmel won by forfeit over Kate Sawmiller. Kimmel continued in pinning Jillian Sempkowski from Van Wert in 2 minutes and 27 seconds. For the finals match, Kimmel pinned Columbus Grover wrestler Zaine Schroeder in 1 minute and 9 seconds. Colton was the first to win the championship for the Raiders on the day and scored 34 team points.

In the 120-pound weight

class, Corbin Kimmel finished on the top of the podium as well. The senior defeated Columbus Grove's Jacob Palte with a score of 14-1. Moving into the second match, Corbin defeated Jacob Harrington from Van Buren with a pin in just 58 seconds. Josh Bishop of Tinora then faced Corbin to be defeated by pin in 4 minutes and 45 seconds. In the championship match, Corbin defeated Silas Riblet of Ada by tech fall with a final score of 17-0. Corbin ended the day scoring 30.5 team points.

Additional wrestlers with wins included Dylan Hershberger who went 2-2, Brennan Miller and Blake Schultz both with a record of 1-2. Good luck to the Raider Wrestlers as they make their way to Defiance on December 27th and 28th.

fought back in the second, led by a stellar showing from Caroline Rohrs, who accounted for 24 of the Lady Archers' 38 points. Raeley Franklin and Briley Bagley chipped in with three points apiece, but Edgerton's defense held strong to limit Antwerp's overall scoring opportunities.

Edgerton extended its lead with a dominant 19-point third quarter, highlighted by Alivia Farnham's aggressive play, contributing 13 points, including seven from the free-throw line. The Bulldogs closed out the game by controlling possessions in the fourth quarter, holding Antwerp to single digits once again.

Despite the loss, Rohrs' performance stood out as a highlight for Antwerp, with the senior guard hitting 10

field goals and going 4-for-5 from the free-throw line. However, the Lady Archers couldn't overcome Edgerton's efficient team play and defensive pressure.

The victory advances Edgerton in the tournament and boosts their momentum as they prepare for the next round. Antwerp, while disappointed with the result, will look to regroup and build on their flashes of strong play in the coming games.

Quarter Scores  
Antwerp: 4 | 13 | 12 | 9 - 38  
Edgerton: 18 | 13 | 19 | 8 - 58

Key Performers  
Edgerton: Katilyn Burke (14 points), Gretchen Kerpeler (13 points), Alivia Farnham (13 points), Casey Everett (11 points).

Antwerp: Caroline Rohrs

(24 points), Raeley Franklin (3 points), Briley Bagley (3 points).

## ANTWERP WRESTLING TEAMS SHINE IN WEEKEND TOURNAMENTS

The Antwerp Wrestling teams had a busy and successful weekend competing in multiple tournaments, with the high school boys, girls, and junior high boys showcasing their skills and determination.

At the Lincolnview Invita-



Kamren Johnson

tional, the Antwerp High School boys team placed fourth overall. Leading the team, Kamren Johnson at 132 pounds delivered an outstanding performance, finishing



Zac Salas

with a 3-0 record and three pins to secure first place. Zac Salas also impressed at 144 pounds, going undefeated with a 5-0 record and one pin to claim first place in his weight class. Skyler Octaviano had a strong showing at 157 pounds, posting a 4-1 record with three pins and earning second place. Other notable performances came from Gage Clevinger at 150 pounds, who finished with a 4-1 record and three pins to take fifth place, and Jarod Traxler at 285 pounds, who placed fourth with a 2-2 record and two pins. Dominic Laker, Braxton Peters, and Griffin Kosch each contributed solid efforts, demonstrating the team's overall competitiveness.

The High School and Ju-



Maddilan Doster

nior Girls teams traveled to Archbold for the Bluestreak Brawl. Junior High wrestler Mary Adams excelled at 134 pounds, finishing with a perfect 3-0 record and three pins. In the High School division, Maddilan Doster dominated at 170 pounds, earning a 3-0 record with three pins to secure first place.

# NEW HAVEN WRESTLING DOMINATES NE8 DUAL TOURNAMENT



The New Haven Bulldogs wrestling team delivered a commanding performance at the NE8 Dual Tournament this past weekend, hosted at Columbia City High School. New Haven went undefeated, finishing the tournament with a per-

fect 7-0 record against all conference opponents.

In a historic achievement, the Bulldogs ended a 59-year streak by defeating Belmont with an impressive 47-27 victory. This milestone highlighted the team's strength, determination, and domi-

nance throughout the tournament.

The New Haven wrestling program continues to demonstrate its growth and competitiveness, earning a well-deserved celebration for their outstanding achievement on the mats.



Mary Adams

The Antwerp Junior High boys competed at the Bryan Invitational, where Braxtyn Bauer at 122 pounds stood out with a 3-1 record, including two pins, to claim third place.

With strong performances across all levels, Antwerp Wrestling continues to build momentum for the season. Their efforts this weekend reflect the hard work and determination of both the athletes and their coaches.

## MYERS LEADS WT OVER LANCERS

Harper Myers connected on six three-point field goals and scored a game high 22 points to lead the Wayne Trace Lady Raiders to a 46-33 win over host Lincolnview Monday in non-league girls basketball play.

The red, white and blue opened a six-point lead after one quarter and never trailed again, grabbing an 11-5 advantage at the end of eight minutes of action.

In the second stanza, the Lady Raiders picked up eight points compared to Lincolnview's seven as Wayne Trace pushed the margin to 19-12 at the intermission.

Wayne Trace went on to post a 33-25 lead at the end of three quarters before sealing the victory, outscoring Lincolnview 13-8 in the period to wrap up the 46-33 victory.

Myers added one basket and a pair of free throws to wrap up her 22-point effort in leading Wayne Trace to its fifth victory of the season in seven games.

Lexi Moore chipped in a double-double with 16 points and 18 rebounds while Caroline Winans finished with six markers. Careen Winans had the remaining red, white and blue points with a second quarter basket.

Emerson Walker paced the Lady Lancers with 15 points in

the contest with Keira Breese bucketing seven markers.

Ashlyn Price and Annabel Horstman totaled five markers apiece for Lincolnview and Brooklyn Byrne picked up a free throw.

## LIONS TOO MUCH FOR WARRIORS

The Leo Lions limited host Woodlan to just four points in the final period in recording a 49-40 victory amongst East Allen County Schools boys basketball rivals Saturday evening.

The Lions took a 14-9 advantage at the end of one quarter before the Warriors cut into the deficit in the second stanza.

Woodlan bucketed 13 points in the period while holding Leo to nine markers, slicing the deficit to 23-22 at the midway point of the contest.

In the third period, the host Warriors responded with 14 points as Woodlan kept Leo to a dozen in taking a 36-35 lead into the fourth quarter.

However, Leo dominated the final eight minutes of action by scoring 14 points and keeping the Warriors to four in finishing off the 49-40 victory.

Nolan Hiteshew topped Leo with 20 points in the contest with Jaiyre Sampson chipping in a dozen markers. Solomon Richard also posted ten points to aid the Lions cause with Landon Ruoff totaling seven markers.

Oliver Adams paced Woodlan with 20 points while Keaton Delagrange posted six markers.

Drew Fleek and Trey Yoder aided the Warrior cause with four points apiece while Mason Moore and Jordan Halsey contributed three points each for Woodlan.

## ARCHERS FLY PAST EAGLES

Making a long trip to northern Williams County, the Lady Archers of Antwerp brought back a victory as the blue and white flew past host North Central 62-41 Tuesday night in non-league girls basketball play.

Caroline Rohrs led all scorers in the contest with a game-high 34 points to top the blue and white.

Briley Bagley also reached double digits with a dozen markers while Raeley Franklin posted six points.

Eliana Hormann and Madisyn Peters both contrib-

uted four points for Antwerp and Clara Rohrs picked up the final two Lady Archer markers.

Amelia Lawson paced North Central with 17 points, including five three-point field goals, while Madeline Zimmerman chipped in a pair of treys to total six markers.

Cailyn Myers recorded five points for the Lady Eagles followed by Addyson Turner (four), Anna Burt (four), Addie Burger (two), Tessa Reymore (two) and Mallory Groves (one).

North Central led 11-10 at the end of one quarter of action before Antwerp rallied in the second stanza, outscoring the Eagles 18-10 for a 28-21 halftime advantage.

In the third quarter, the blue and white extended the margin with a 21-point stanza as Antwerp recorded a 49-32 lead entering the final eight minutes of action.

## ACES FALL TO PANTHERS

Visiting Stryker controlled the first half and never looked back as the Williams County squad recorded a 52-41 victory over Hicksville in non-league girls basketball action.

The Panther defense limited the Aces to single digits in each of the first two quarters to take control of the contest.

Stryker scored a dozen markers in the first period and held Hicksville to eight before the Panthers widened the gap in the second stanza. The Williams County squad added 16 points in quarter number two compared to nine for the Aces, giving Stryker a 28-17 halftime advantage.

After the host Aces outscored Stryker 12-5 in the third quarter to pull within 33-29 entering the final stanza, the Panthers put the game away with a 19-point final period to wrap up the 52-41 victory.

Aubrey Clemens and Grace Froelich each reached twin digits for Stryker with a dozen and ten markers, respectively, while Addalee Fulk and Reiss Creighton chipped in nine points apiece.

Abby Oberlin (seven) and Anna Donovan (five) completed the scoring for the Williams County squad.

Devony Mull topped Hicksville with 20 points and Kennedy Adams chipped in ten markers while McKenna Baird recorded seven points and McKenna Rice totaled four markers.

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## PC SHERIFF'S OFFICE ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET

Paulding County Sheriff Jason K. Landers held the annual awards banquet this week with two promotions and one significant retirement.



Robert C Miller

Deputy Robert C. Miller will be retiring his commission as a Special Deputy with the office the end of this year. He began his law enforcement career in 1964 when he started with the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. R.C. Miller became a Trooper after his graduation in the 66th class of the Highway Patrol. He retired in 1997 after 33 years with the Patrol then commissioned as a Deputy Sheriff that same year. His retirement is the culmination of an honorable 60-year career in this profession. Deputy R.C. Miller was recognized and honored at the banquet by Sheriff Jason K. Landers, Director of Public Safety Andy Wilson, Senator Rob McColley, House Representative Roy Klopfenstein and Lt. Joe Sisco with the Van Wert Post of the State Highway Patrol.



Caleb Miller

Sheriff Landers also announced the promotion of Deputy Sheriff Sergeant Caleb Miller to the rank of Chief Deputy, and Deputy Sheriff Rylee Carlisle to the rank of Road Patrol Sergeant. Chief Deputy Miller started his career with the Sheriff's Office in 2013. Sergeant Carlisle began his employment with the Sheriff's Office in 2018.

Annual awards are given in 5 categories. The 2024 award



Rylee Carlisle

winners announced Monday were:

- Employee of the Year - Nick Cunningham
- Communications Officer of the Year - Jay Klopfenstein
- Corrections Officer of the Year - April Fuit
- Reserve Deputy Sheriff of the Year - Daniel Workman
- Road Patrol Deputy Sheriff of the Year - Mark Figert

Ohio Department of Public Safety Director Andy Wilson was the keynote speaker at the banquet. Director Wilson spoke about a few topics including officer wellness. Sheriff Landers used Director Wilson's contagious energy as a segue into the announcement of a 2025 wellness program spearheaded by Deputy Sheriff Cierra Moran and Sergeant Justis Harvey.

"I am completing my 12th year as the elected Sheriff. I take pride in the annual banquet as I try to recognize team members for the good work they do throughout the year. I think each banquet has gotten better, but this was the best one yet. I continue to be so proud of my staff and this year we recognized one of the most honorable men to serve Paulding County with the retirement of Bob Miller. He is a true gem and I wish him the best in his retirement," said Sheriff Jason K. Landers.

## ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS



December 5, 2024 - Officers filed a report for a fraud case. In another incident, an officer assisted a resident in removing a possum from their home.

December 6, 2024 - An officer responded to Antwerp

Park regarding two ATVs being driven through the park. A traffic stop was initiated, and both operators were cited.

December 7, 2024 - Officers investigated a menacing incident. A report was filed and sent to the Paulding County prosecutor's office.

December 8, 2024 - A resident reported a case of online fraud involving Facebook. In a separate case, officers investigated a stalking incident.

December 9, 2024 - An officer was dispatched to a residence to keep the peace during a reported dispute.

December 10, 2024 - An officer was called to the school to remove a subject from a game. Separately, a resident reported two individuals going door-to-door without a permit. Officers also responded to a report of a possible assault on a school bus.

December 11, 2024 - A report was made concerning an adult threatening children at a bus stop.

December 12, 2024 - While conducting a traffic stop, an officer cited a motorist for driving without an operator's license and passing on the right.

December 13, 2024 - An officer was dispatched to investigate an assault that occurred on a school bus.

December 14, 2024 - An officer assisted EMS at a residence with an elderly patient.

December 16, 2024 - Officers responded to two separate incidents. In the first, an officer was dispatched to a residence for a welfare check. In the second, officers responded to a domestic incident. Upon investigation, a subject was arrested and taken to the Paulding County Jail, and charges were filed with the court.

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

On December 11, 2024, **Rachael Kirkland** of Toledo, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30, and no court costs were applied. **Johnnie Crockam** of Indianapolis, IN, was found guilty of speeding 85/65 MPH, fined \$45, and charged \$95 in court costs. **John Miner** of Defiance, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation and was fined \$30 with \$57 in court costs. Miner also pleaded guilty to a display plates violation, incurring a \$70 fine.

On December 12, 2024, **Tyler Ash** of Paulding, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation, fined \$30, and charged \$62 in court costs. **Christopher Ryan** of Antwerp, OH, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation, fined \$55, and incurred \$100 in court costs. **Janet Elliott** of Defiance, OH, was found guilty of speeding 69/55 MPH. She was fined \$35 and charged \$95 in court costs. **Kyle Kovac** of Paulding, OH, pleaded guilty to an unsecured load, fined \$70, and charged \$95 in court costs. **Bryan Bechstein** of Defiance, OH, pleaded no contest to speeding 79/65 MPH. He was fined \$35 and charged \$95 in court costs. **Cynthia Morningstar** of Defiance, OH, pleaded guilty to three charges: speeding 69/55

MPH, a seat belt violation, and a left-of-center violation. She was fined \$35 for speeding, \$30 for the seat belt offense, and \$79 for the left-of-center charge, along with \$95 in court costs for each violation. **Francisco Alvarey** of Delphos, OH, was found guilty of two charges: a left-of-center violation with a \$55 fine and a no operator's license charge, incurring a \$150 fine.

On December 13, 2024, **Olivia Logan** of Paulding, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and charged \$57 in court costs. **Savannah Jaqua** of Swanton, OH, pleaded guilty to speeding 71/55 MPH. She was fined \$45 and incurred \$95 in court costs.

On December 16, 2024, **Eisler Roman Ortiz** of Bryan, OH, was found guilty of operating a vehicle under the influence, fined \$375, and charged 30 days in jail, with 27 days suspended. Special Condition: He may attend a DIP in lieu of 3 days in jail and must provide proof of insurance. In two separate cases, **Roman Ortiz** had charges of OVI refusal and parking on a public highway dismissed. **Jaskarn Kali** of Kitchener, ON, pleaded no contest to a failure to control violation. He was fined \$80 and charged \$105 in court costs. **Teagan Mann** of Oakwood, OH, pleaded no contest to speeding 89/55 MPH. He was fined \$100 and charged \$97 in court costs. **Agustin Maciel** of Oakwood, OH, was found guilty of speeding 86/65 MPH. He was fined \$100 and incurred \$97 in court costs. **Austin Grose** of Decatur, IN, pleaded no contest to speeding 60/55 MPH. He was fined \$100 and incurred \$97 in court costs. **John Mutschleknau** of Payne, OH, pleaded no contest to failure to control, fined \$70, and charged \$95 in court costs.

On December 17, 2024, **Jason Barnes** of Paulding, OH, pleaded guilty to driving while texting, incurring \$100 in court costs. **Dallas Fortner** of Greenville, OH, was found guilty of speeding 65/55 MPH. He was fined \$35 and charged \$95 in court costs. **Emmaleigh Helton** of Antwerp, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and charged \$57 in court costs. **Derek Smith** of Defiance, OH, pleaded guilty to failure to control, fined \$70, and charged \$95 in court costs. **Michael Young** of Muskogee, OK, was found guilty of speeding 87/65 MPH. He was fined \$45 and charged \$95 in court costs.

On December 17, 2024, **Jason Barnes** of Paulding, OH, pleaded guilty to driving while texting, incurring \$100 in court costs. **Dallas Fortner** of Greenville, OH, was found guilty of speeding 65/55 MPH. He was fined \$35 and charged \$95 in court costs. **Emmaleigh Helton** of Antwerp, OH, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and charged \$57 in court costs. **Derek Smith** of Defiance, OH, pleaded guilty to failure to control, fined \$70, and charged \$95 in court costs. **Michael Young** of Muskogee, OK, was found guilty of speeding 87/65 MPH. He was fined \$45 and charged \$95 in court costs.

## PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (7) persons on Thursday, December 19, 2024.

**Keith Alan Hill** (6/7/1969), Middle Point, OH; Engaging in a pattern of corrupt activity, F2

**Jacqueline Anita Wetoskey** (6/8/1995), Ft. Wayne, IN; Theft from a person in a protected class, F5; Theft, F5

**Zachery N. Davis** (9/10/1988), Napoleon, OH; Nonsupport of dependents, F5

**Felipe Garcia** (9/23/1984), Defiance, OH; Domestic violence, F4

**Timothy J. Mann** (8/10/1986), Cecil, OH; Failure to comply with an order or signal of a police officer, F3 -

Specification for forfeiture of property

**Lonnie M. Gwin** (6/2/1977), Garfield Heights, OH; Trafficking in cocaine, F5

**Nicholas Scott Baysinger** (1/15/1991)(Huntersville, IN; Grand theft when the property is a firearm or dangerous ordnance, F3

## OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH ON US 30 IN VAN WERT COUNTY

On December 18, 2024, at approximately 6:16 P.M. troopers with the Van Wert Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol were dispatched to

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

on behalf of Defendants Gary L. Flint and Randy L. Flint

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

PAULDING COUNTY TREASURER

Plaintiff,

vs.

**BERNARD FLINT, ET.AL.**

DEFENDANTS,

Case No. CI-20-139

Judge Tiffany R. Beckman

PPN: 12-03S-022-00

**TO: Michael R. Flint, Deceased, NKA Unknown heirs, administrators, executors or assigns of Michael R. Flint; the Unknown Spouse of Michael R. Flint; Sharon A. Nelson, Deceased, NKA Unknown heirs, administrators, executors or assigns of Sharon A. Nelson; and the Unknown Spouse of Sharon A. Nelson (Collectively "the Estate of Defendant Michael R. Flint, Deceased and the Estate of Defendant Sharon A. Nelson, Deceased").**

**LAST KNOWN ADDRESS:**

**UNKNOWN**

Please take notice that an Excess Funds Hearing was virtually heard on October 21, 2024 in the above-captioned action upon the August 19, 2024 Supplemental Motion for Distribution of Excess funds with respect to the remaining proceeds from the Sheriff's Sale and/or Private Sale associated with the above-captioned foreclosure matter ("Defendants' Motion"), filed on behalf of Defendant Gary L. Flint and Defendant Randy L. Flint (hereinafter referred to as "Defendants"), and whereby Defendants by and through their undersigned legal counsel, respectfully requested an Order compelling the Clerk of Courts to distribute an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of any and all excess funds in favor of Defendants (1/4th to each Defendant) and/or an Order requiring that an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of any and all funds held by the Paulding County Treasurer, Auditor, and/or any private party, the aggregate amount is believed to be Twenty Thousand Four Hundred Ninety-Three and 31/100ths Dollars (\$20,493.31) (the "Excess Funds"), be returned to the Paulding County Clerk of Courts for distribution to Defendants. Further, this Notice is hereby provided so as to provide the Estate of Defendant Michael R. Flint, Deceased and the Estate of Defendant Sharon A. Nelson, Deceased, respectively, to appear before this Court and/or to respond to Defendants' Motion.

Further, Defendants, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby state that the final "Entry Confirming Sale and Distribution of Proceeds of Sale" was issued by this Honorable Court on June 8, 2021. Thus, pursuant to the pleadings and motions as reflected in the Docket, together with the Final Confirmation Entry, and upon information and belief, Defendants respectfully sets forth that all other proceeds due and owing have since been distributed as set forth therein, and al that remains is the above-referenced amount in Excess Funds for the benefit of Claimants/Defendants and the Estate of Defendant Michael R. Flint, Deceased and the Estate of Defendant Sharon A. Nelson, Deceased, respectively. Defendants pray the Estate of Defendant Michael R. Flint, Deceased and the Estate of Defendant Sharon A. Nelson, Deceased, respectively, be required to respond to Defendant's Motion and set up their interest in said Excess Funds stemming from said real estate. Further, Defendants, by and through their undersigned counsel, hereby respectfully request that this Court

the intersection of US 30 at State Route 49 north for a report of a crash involving two commercial vehicles.

The preliminary investigation revealed that Amie Marie Cook, age 31, of New Albany, was operating a 2018 Freightliner semi and was traveling southbound on SR 49. Blane William Williamson, age 64, of Kendallville, Indiana, was operating a 2019 Kenworth semi and was traveling westbound on US 30.

After stopping at the posted stop sign Ms. Cook failed to yield to oncoming traffic and began to cross the westbound lanes of US 30.

PAULDING COUNTY  
ANN E. PEASE  
CLERK OF COURTS

2024 DEC 12 AM 11:56

grant the underlying Defendants' Motion and issue an Order compelling the Paulding County Clerk of Courts to distribute an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the underlying Excess Funds in favor of Defendants and/or an Order requiring that an amount equal to one-half (1/2) of the underlying Excess Funds held by the Paulding County Treasurer and/or the Paulding County Auditor and/or any third party, including, but not limited to, any private selling officer, be returned to the Paulding County Clerk of Courts for distribution to Defendants, as the same relates to one-half (1/2) of the underlying Excess Funds remaining from the Sheriff's Sale and/or Private Sale associated with the above-captioned foreclosure matter, which amount is believed to be Ten Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Six and 66/100ths Dollars (\$10,246.66), in favor of Defendants, and specifically as follows:

- 1.) Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three and 33/100ths Dollars (\$5,123.33), in favor of Defendant Gary A. Flint and that the amount be made payable to Defendant as follows: "BKD Legal LLC, IOLTA and/or Gary A. Flint", and delivered to BKD Legal LLC, c/o Brian K. Duncan, Esq., 119 E. Granville St, Sunbury, OH 43074;
- 2.) Five Thousand One Hundred Twenty-Three and 33/100ths Dollars (\$5,123.33), in favor of Defendant Randy A. Flint and that the amount be made payable to Defendant as follows: "BKD Legal LLC, IOLTA and/or Rand: A. Flint", and delivered to BKD Legal LLC, c/o Brian K. Duncan, Esq., 119 E. Granville St., Sunbury, OH 43074.

The real property in question is further described as follows:

Situated in the Village of Broughton, and the State of Ohio and more fully described as follows:

A part of the West Half (1/2) of the Northeast Quarter (1/4) of the Northeast Quarter (1/4) of Section Thirty-two (32), Town Two (2) North, Range Three (3) East, and more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point 726.15 feet West of the Northeast corner of Section 32, Town 2 North, Range 3 East, Paulding County, Ohio, on the Section line between Sections 29 and 32; thence West a distance of 216.50 feet; thence

South a distance of 201.20 feet; thence East a distance of 216.50 feet; thence North a distance of 201.20 feet to the place of beginning, containing One (1) acre of land, more or less. Also known as being part of Outlot 12 and Outlot 13, Section 32, in the Village of Broughton, County of Paulding, and State of Ohio.

Auditor's Parcel #: 12-03S-022-00  
Property Address: 14850 SR 613, Paulding, Ohio (Broughton)

The Defendants named above are required to respond to Defendants' Motion within fourteen (14) days after the last date of publication of this notice. In the event that the Defendants fails to respond in the allotted time, judgment can be entered in favor of Defendants for the relief request in Defendants' Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Brian K. Duncan

Brian K. Duncan, Esq. (0080751)

**BKD LEGAL LLC**

119 E. Granville St.

Sunbury, Ohio 43215

Telephone: 740.965.1347

Facsimile: 614.386.0410

E-mail: bduncan@bklegal.com

Attorney for Defendants Gary L. Flint and Randy L. Flint

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Mr. Williamson, who traveling in the left lane of west-bound US 30, struck Ms. Cook's trailer.

Ms. Cook was treated on scene and released with no reported injuries. Mr. Williamson sustained fatal injuries as a result of the crash and was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Van Wert County Coroner's office.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Van Wert County Sheriff's Office, Convoy Fire & EMS, Payne Fire & EMS, the Ohio Department of Transportation, Van Wert County EMA, Van Wert County Coroner's Office, CERT and Hague's Towing and Repair.

The crash remains under

investigation.

### ANTWERP VILLAGE COUNCIL APPROVES ANNEXATION, DISCUSSES BUSINESS PROJECTS

With Mayor Reeb and Councilman Rister excused from the December 11 meeting, the Antwerp Village Council gathered at Village Hall to address a packed agenda that included resolutions on annexation, updates on zoning and infrastructure, and discussions about community concerns.

Key Resolutions Passed:

1. Driveway Encroachment Memorandum: The council approved an emergency resolution authorizing a memorandum of understanding with



D&L Properties for a gravel driveway encroaching on village property.

2. Annexation Agreement: An emergency resolution was passed to enter an agreement with Carryall Township for the annexation of property known as the Marlin property. Council clarified that, under this process, a public hearing was unnecessary due to single-owner petitioning.

3. Subdivision Final Plat: The final plat of Maumee Landing Subdivision Phase 14 was accepted under emergency ordinance.

4. Personnel Manual Update: The council adopted the 2025 personnel manual but discussed amending future updates to streamline the process. Zoning Fee Adjustments and Appeals Process

The council withdrew an ordinance proposing significant increases to zoning appeal fees after concerns were raised about constitutionality. Notably, a \$500 appeal fee, much higher than the \$100 fine it sought to address, was compared to a similar case in Peninsula, Ohio, where excessive fees were deemed unconstitutional. Members proposed a review by the Planning and Zoning Commission to reassess all zoning fees to reflect actual costs.

Council debated a zoning issue involving a home-based resale business on Buffalo Street. While complaints about traffic and parking congestion prompted zoning appeals board action to deny a variance, council members voiced concerns about enforcing ordinances uniformly. Discussions centered on balancing community concerns with supporting small, home-based entrepreneurs. Council encouraged revisiting the variance process and exploring measures like signage to alleviate

traffic issues.

Infrastructure and Development Updates

• Waterline Approvals: The Ohio EPA approved plans for the Canal and Wentworth waterline improvements, with additional engineering for Erie Street pending.

• Depot Sale Litigation: Ongoing legal proceedings have delayed the completion of the Norfolk Western Depot sale.

• Road Maintenance: Council addressed potholes on Erie Street and other roads, exploring potential repairs despite winter challenges.

Council voted to maintain a \$2,000 membership level with the Paulding County Economic Development office, ensuring platinum-tier participation.

The meeting concluded with council reflecting on the progress of community projects and plans for 2025. Members highlighted the importance of revisiting unresolved issues, such as traffic concerns and zoning fee structures, to better serve the residents of Antwerp.

The next regular council meeting is scheduled for January 2025.

### PAULDING COUNTY ZONING INSPECTORS MEETING

The quarterly Paulding County zoning inspectors meeting took place on Wednesday at the Paulding County Economic Development Office. This group morphed out of quarterly county mayor's meetings and has developed as a way to bridge communication gaps and further effort in zoning consistency and collaboration amongst the county.

The main agenda item was to start collecting the list of zoning fees for each municipality and township. These lists will be compiled into a spreadsheet that will allow a comparison of costs and the variation of fees. Those in attendance shared their table of fees which started comparison discussion. The group determined that if the zoning fee tables were submitted to the courthouse, they could be found on the recorder's website.

Sarah McCabe, with the county auditor's office, shared that they will be sharing year end data for building permit summaries. These would be in regard to commercial, residential, agriculture, mobile home and destroyed mobile home permits issued in 2024.

Brian Harder, with the county engineer's office, shared that since the county GIS system was implemented visits into the office have diminished greatly. It was questioned about how many zoning maps are on file with the engineering office. Harder reported that less than 50% of the maps are on file. The group will work with the office to increase this amount.

General conversation turned to the county health department and the septic verification program. Recently the county has started to lay out the plan for verifying septic systems around the county are operating correctly and efficiently. More information will be forthcoming from the department about this state required program.

Tim Copsey, county economic development director offered information about the county land bank funds from the State of Ohio. Earlier this week, the Ohio Department of Development moved forward

## The West Bend News

# Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

with committing the \$500,000 allocation to the county and asked for final paperwork to be submitted by January 6. Estee Blair, with Maumee Valley Planning Organization will submit this information for the county. Demolition bids will then be sent out for the 42 submitted properties around the

county.

Participants this quarter represented Washington Township, Carryall Township, Crane Township, Paulding Village, Cecil Village, the county auditor office, county engineer office and economic development. The group agreed to meet again March 19th 2025.

### LEGAL NOTICE

At its monthly meeting on December 17, 2024, the Paulding County Board of Health approved the 2025 proposed Food Program fee changes for 2025, effective January 1, 2025. Readings of the fees were conducted on September 24, 2024, October 29, 2024, and December 17, 2024.

#### 2025 Food Fees

Up to 25,000 sq. ft.		Level 3		\$ 802.00
Level 1	\$ 172.00	Level 4		\$ 870.00
Level 2	\$ 202.00	Mobile - high risk		\$150.00
Level 3	\$ 347.00	Mobile - low risk		\$75.00
Level 4	\$ 447.00	Temporaries	remain the same	
Greater than 25,000 sq. ft.		Vending		\$11.45 plus CPI
Level 1	\$ 250.00	Plan Review - new	remain the same	
Level 2	\$ 260.00	Plan Review - existing	remain the same	

For any questions concerning these fees please contact the Paulding County Health Department at 419-399-3921.



### LEGAL NOTICE

#### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

#### CHILLER AND BOILER INSTALLATION FOR THE PAULDING COUNTY JAIL

Notice is hereby given that Request for Proposals will be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E Paulding, OH 45879, Until Monday, December 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., at which time and place, RFP's will be opened and read for Chiller and Boiler Installation and Manufacturer's Recommended Maintenance for The Paulding County Jail.

The Paulding County Board of Commissioners is seeking proposals from qualified vendors to provide and install a new Chiller and Boiler System at the Paulding County Jail located at 500 E Perry St. Paulding, OH 45879:

#### SCOPE OVERVIEW:

1. Install a Heat recovery unit that will capture the exhausted air and reuse it as applicable for the outside air intake on the air handlers;
2. Install new chilled water air handlers in place of existing package rooftop units. These units should have hot water coils as well;
3. Install air cooled water chiller on the ground with tertiary tan;
4. Install a high-efficiency boiler for heating the hot water loop;
5. Upgrade controls for the entire facility. Facilitate energy application/analysis software which will use AI to keep the system in optimum tune and provide building analytics for current and projected energy usage and analysis.

The bidder awarded the contract must provide a performance bond executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the State of Ohio, in an amount equal to the bid. Said performance bond will be required upon signing the contract for this project.

Bids may be hand delivered or mailed in a sealed envelope to: Paulding County Commissioners, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E Paulding, OH 45879, and bearing the Bidder's name and address and marked "RFP for "Chiller and Boiler Installation for the Paulding County Jail". The Board of County Commissioners office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners office at 419-399-8215.

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids received.

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

### PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Cecil, Paulding County, Ohio will be holding a public hearing to determine the necessity of an assessment against specified Village property in order to compensate for the installation of new sewer tanks on said properties. The properties to be affected are known as Corner of Fourth and Stafford St in the Village of Cecil or Paulding County Auditor's Parcel No. 15-04S-031-00 and 207 E Plum Street in the Village of Cecil or Paulding County Auditor's Parcel No. 15-02S-008-00. This hearing will be held January 6, 2025, at 5:30 PM at the Cecil Firehouse, 301 W. Third St., Cecil, OH 45821. The public is welcome to attend, and the owners of the affected parcels are welcome to raise any objections to the assessment they may have.

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

#### IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

Judge Tiffany R. Beckman

LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, TREASURER  
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO, Plaintiff,  
VS.

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 you 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: *Ann E. Pease*  
Deputy

Respectively submitted,

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

### MEETING CHANGE NOTICE

Village of Cecil, Paulding County, Ohio

NO COUNCIL MEETING  
ON DECEMBER 23, 2024  
DUE TO HOLIDAY

SPECIAL MEETING ON  
JANUARY 6, 2025  
AT 5:30 PM

REGULAR COUNCIL  
MEETING ON  
JANUARY 27TH at 7 PM

### NOTICE OF FIRST PUBLIC HEARING – PAULDING COUNTY PY 2025 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM

The Paulding County Board of Commissioners intends to apply to the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD) for funding under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and the HOME Investment Partnerships Program. CDBG & HOME are federally funded programs administered by ODOD, Office of Community Development (OCD). The ODOD also administers the state funded Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF). For Program Year 2025, the Paulding County Board of Commissioners will be eligible to apply for various grants from these programs on behalf of their communities. Communities interested in grant funding should attend this hearing.

This public hearing will be held on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2025 AT 11:00 AM

in the Paulding County Commissioner's Chambers located at 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E, Paulding, OH 45879. This public hearing is the first of two mandatory public hearings that will occur in PY 2025. The purpose of the first public hearing is to provide citizens and local administrators with pertinent information about the programs available and program requirements. MVPO and the County will work with communities to identify potentially successful applications for funding. The second public hearing will be held at a future date and will review applications prior to their submittal. Please note, communities do not have the authority to apply for CDBG programs. All applications must be approved by the Paulding County Board of Commissioners via resolution.

The programs available to Paulding County are outlined in the State of Ohio Consolidated Plan and will be presented at the Public Hearing by Maumee Valley Planning Organization. A broad range of activities can be funded through the programs, including neighborhood revitalization grant planning, economic development, downtown revitalization, water and sewer facilities, flood and drainage facilities, streets and sidewalks, senior centers, parks, and demolition of unsafe structures. Projects must be designed to primarily benefit low-to-moderate income persons, aid in the prevention of slum or blight, or meet an urgent need in the community.

If a participant will need auxiliary aids (interpreter, Braille or taped material, listening device, other) due to a disability, please contact Maumee Valley Planning Organization prior to January 1st, 2025 at 419-784-3882 in order to ensure that your needs will be accommodated. The Paulding County Commissioners Office is handicapped accessible.



## OPERATION CLEAN DUDS AWARDED \$2,000 GRANT FOR LAUNDROMAT SUPPLIES



The grant was presented by Laurie McCann, Chair of the Defiance Area Foundation Marketing Committee, to Jasmine Conley, Director of Operation Clean Duds.

The Defiance Area Foundation has granted \$2,000 to Operation Clean Duds during its fall grant cycle in October. The funding will be used to purchase essential supplies and materials to support the program's laundromat services, which aim to assist community members in need.

The funds will help ensure the program continues to provide vital services to the community.

This grant highlights the ongoing collaboration between local organizations to address community needs and improve access to essential resources.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN JANUARY 2025

Happy New Year from the staff at Paulding County Carnegie Library. We will be closed on January 1 to bring in the new year. Sign up for the "Smitten with Reading" Winter Reading Program, January 1 to March 1. Get your reading log and start reading. The library will also be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The Adult section will continue with their programs into the new year.

Coffee Talk is every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

Adult crafts, ages 18+ every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., while supplies last.

Teen Cookbook Club January 27 at 4:00 p.m.

Adult Cookbook Club January 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Postema will be available on January 8 at 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to answer all your medicare/retirement planning questions.

Black Swamp Bookworms will meet on Tuesday, January 14th at 5:30 p.m. We are reading "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See. You may call the Main library at 419-

399-2032 to reserve your copy. New book club members are always welcome.

The Children's Room is excited to start the new year. On Friday, January 3 we will be showing the movie "Frozen" from 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. While you are here you can make your own snowman, while supplies last.

Storytime is every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. with our very own Kooky Kirk.

Wii Winter Bowling Challenge runs from January 1 to March 1. Top score at the end wins a prize. Stop in and Wii bowl.

### ANTWERP BRANCH:

The Antwerp Branch is bringing warmth to your winter this month.

Soup Cook-Off Cookbook Club is Monday January 20 at 5:45 p.m., bring in your favorite soup to share and a special prize will be awarded to the winner.

Book Club is January 13th at 6:00 p.m., members are reading/discussing "The Nightingale" by Kristen Hannah.

We welcome Hygge with Craft Fridays, Movie Bundles with popcorn and candy.

Button Making will be on January 10th at 5:30 p.m., no sign up is required.

Bread Making class is January 16th at 5:30 p.m. and sign up is required.

Storytime is every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., bring your own blanket and cuddle up with your little one on the rug.

### GROVER HILL BRANCH:

The Grover Hill Branch will begin with a brand new What's New Wednesday.

Munchkin club will be on Monday January 13th and January 27th at 10:30 a.m..

Senior Bingo will be Thursday, January 9th at 1:00 p.m.

January 23rd at 5:30 p.m., patrons age 10+ can craft, cozy and come together something charming. All supplies will be provided, call to reserve your spot.

The GHBL Book Club is January 29th at 4:00 p.m. The club is meeting to discuss the book "The Snow Child" by Eowyn Ivey. In exploring themes of grief, family and change, the book illustrates the ways that our yearning can bring us to a place of mourning and yet give us healing. Check out your copy today.

On Friday, January 31st the winner will be drawn for the basket.

### OAKWOOD BRANCH:

The Oakwood Branch will begin the New Year on January 2 when patrons can take home a delightful snowflake kit.

The Good Morning Book Club will convene on Tuesday, January 7 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., be sure to stop in and pick up a snowman soup that day.

Children's Story Time is every Thursday at 11:00 a.m., starting January 9th.

Senior Bingo will be hosted by The Meadows on Thursday, January 9th at 11:30 a.m.

An adult wood sign workshop, "Baby It's Cold Outside" will be January 11 at 10:00 a.m. Pre-registration is required for this event.

Our Facebook riddle will be posted on January 13th with the winner announced on January 14th.

The Adult Cookbook Club will gather on January 16th at 5:30 p.m., focusing on the theme of Party Food.

Don't miss our Gift Basket Drawing on January 27th.

Quilt Block of the month will meet on January 28th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., participants can stop by and pick up a pattern and fabric requirements.

An Adult String Art Workshop is scheduled for January 18th, please call to register.

### PAYNE BRANCH:

The Payne Branch will be busy with snowman crafts, learning, books and coffee.

DIY Snowman Plate Craft will be on Thursday, January 9th at 1:00 p.m., all supplies provided.

Kids, K through 6th grade can Build a Snow Bear, Tuesday January 14th 3:30-5:00 p.m. Registration is required, supplies limited.

Essential Oil Class with Judy Hook, Monday January 13 at 6 p.m. This month's discussion is Metabolism, how it works and how to increase it. Judy will be sharing some to sample.

Books, Bites & Coffee will be Wednesday, January 22 at 1:00 p.m. There is no assigned reading, just bring yourself and tell us what you have been reading or listening to while sharing with others.

The Friends of the Paulding County Carnegie Library will meet Monday, January

## DEFIANCE AREA YMCA RECEIVES DONATION FROM PREMIER BANK



Pictured left to right: Katie Groff, Vice President, Board of Directors, Defiance Area YMCA; Stephanie Wahl, AVP, Commercial. Portfolio Manager, Premier Bank; Angie Ankney, AVP, Branch Manager, Premier Bank Defiance Main; Jonathan Wolfrum, President, Board of Directors, Defiance Area YMCA and Danielle Fowler, AVP, Business Banking LO, Premier Bank.

Premier Bank recently donated a check for \$10,000 to the Defiance Area YMCA. The funds were used to sponsor the annual Festival of Trees fundraising event.

"The purpose of The Festival of Trees is to encourage, support and improve healthy living habits, among our members and throughout the community," explained Ed

Thomas, Interim CEO, Defiance Area YMCA.

"It is a weeklong event filled with events for all ages wrapped around the warmth of the holiday season!"

"We are proud to support the Defiance Area YMCA as they continue to find ways to celebrate our community and work to nurture youth development, promote healthy liv-

ing and foster a sense of social responsibility," said Trish Gelsomino, Foundation Giving Coordinator, Premier Bank. "Together we can spread kindness and make Defiance County stronger!"

For more information regarding the Defiance Area YMCA, please call 419-784-4747 or visit DefianceYMCA.org\*

## KEITH HUBBARD FAMILY FUND DONATES \$1,000 TO CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS



Pictured alongside the Christmas For Kids team during the donation presentation are Steve Hubbard (far left) and Tom Hubbard (fourth from left), representing the Hubbard family. This contribution will provide assistance to families during the holiday season, ensuring local children experience a brighter and more joyful Christmas.

The Keith Hubbard Family Fund, a donor-advised fund under the Defiance Area Foundation, has generously donated \$1,000 to support Christmas For Kids. The donation was made in memory of the late Keith Hubbard, honoring his legacy of

generosity and community service.

The Defiance Area Foundation continues to facilitate meaningful contributions through donor-advised funds, fostering community support and strengthening charitable initiatives.

## CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH THE COUNTRYSIDE KIDS

By: Leetim Crites

On December 7, 2024, the Countryside kids decided to go bowling. They were put into groups of 8, and bowled for about an hour and a half.

They were able to get pizza and many different types of drinks, such as lemonade, root beer, and Coke too! At the end, there were different types of cookies, and were able to eat them after the party.

If they had money, they could play some arcade games, like a racing simulator, a duck simulator, a boxing machine, and a claw machine too!

I would like to give a shout out to our Club Advisor, Beth Schweinsberg, as well as the Pin-A-Rama employees for their help and allowing us to come!

## ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2024 WRAP UP

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is wrapping up 2024. We began by growing our membership to 51 businesses, 18 non-profits, 8 home-based businesses and 3 friends of the chamber memberships. Our home-based businesses category ranges from local crafters to direct sales representatives. Business spotlights were completed on The Pit Stop, West Bend News, Hometown Speech, Kim Kemerow with LBRI and Norwex and Judy Hook with

Ageless Reflexology. We had a grand opening for Hometown Speech Connection with Jennifer Smith, a speech language pathologist.

In May we sponsored our 2nd Chocolate Walk. The walk itself was cancelled due to lack of participants but we were able to sell the chocolates and make a profit of over \$400. We appreciate the businesses that participated.

A brochure of the town of Antwerp was completed and made available to the PCED

office to use as a marketing tool. The brochure is in both digital form for easy transmitting and in printed form for any business interested in having them available. A PDF was sent to the Chamber email list.

In June, in connection with Town Wide Garage sales, the Chamber held a gently used Purse Sale at the H2O Water Store. All proceeds were donated to the Rock the River 4th of July celebration.

In June, Antwerp Days returned with the help of the

## DERCK'S LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

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## THE BLIND RACCOON

Johnny, a 19 year old college boy returned from a walk one day with an abandoned baby raccoon. He didn't want to turn it back out to die, so they took it to a vet to have it checked out, and they found why his mother abandoned it. The baby raccoon was blind.

Johnny named the raccoon Kitty, and it became part of the family. But this story isn't about Kitty, it's about the father Malcolm, Malcolm Stamper. Malcolm retired from the aerospace industry, where he worked for Boeing and was the overseer of 50,000 employees working in the biggest factory in the world.

But now Malcolm had another idea. He wanted to start a book publishing company, publishing children's books. He called his company, "Story Tellers Ink." He had one employee and that was his daughter, Mary Lou. His idea was not only to teach children to read but teach them kindness at the same time. He would publish books like Black Beauty, and You he Lost and Found Puppy. Lessons learned from Kitty the raccoon, and Charlie The crow.

Talking with law officers, Malcolm found that a high percentage of criminals got their start by being cruel to animals. He would publish books about being kind to animals. He was able to solicit backing from General Motors, Walmart, and other big businesses and made a successful company.

Malcolm had headed the project of building the Boeing 747. From start to finish it took 28 months. During that time Malcolm never missed a

day of work. After 3 years he finally took Christmas off which seems strange because he had six children. There was no factory big enough, so they built their own factory with a building covering 44 acres or 74 football fields, north of Seattle, Washington.

The first plane rolled off of the assembly line September 30, 1968. It was ground tested for 3 months and the first flight was February 9th, 1969. The plane was used until 2023, and has now been taken over by the Airbus which is made in Europe. The 747 could carry 660 passengers. One of the interesting facts is they used Boeing employees to test evacuation procedures. They could evacuate the plane in two and a half minutes but they always had injuries to some of the passengers.

The FAA requires that all planes must be able to evacuate in 90 seconds. They finally achieved this but it was difficult because the upper story, of the plane stood so high. Back to the books. It is said that a high percentage of the population cannot read at a 6th grade level. Dolly Parton started a program which is still going. She will send a book every month, to a child from birth to age 5. This has been an excellent program and all you have to do is sign up for it.

Years ago we had a beautiful cat, and it simply disappeared. There was a boy the age of our kids, that lived a mile out of Grabill. One of our boys friends said he had seen the boy take our cat. I hustled out to his house and he showed me where he buried the cat. The boy has been in trouble all of his life and I'm not sure what happened to him.

PS... I wrote this recently and had never heard of Dolly Parton's charity. Good to know there is a program in Allen County Indiana, library.

Antwerp Community Development Committee. This two-day event was held at the Fire Station/VFW. The Chamber sponsored the GEM of Antwerp Award and Lofton Brown was selected by the community as our GEM of the year for 2024.

In July we sponsored a Kiddie Parade and Candy Bar Bingo with the theme of the 4th of July. The parade was unfortunately rained out, but children gathered at the VFW pavilion for a rousing game of Bingo. Winners received candy bars donated by Cham-

ber member, Gen Fed.

The Chamber donated a plaque for the Boy Scouts Car Show in July. The award is the Chamber Choice award and the winning car is chosen by a Chamber member.

Our Cutie Pie Contest during Day in the Park supports our scholarship fund each year. While we did not have any applicants this year, we continue to think of ways to offer this scholarship to Vantage students. This year we were able to increase the reward from \$500 to \$750 due to the generosity of the commu-

# Classified Ads

## Sell it in the Classifieds!

Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.  
**Bold is \$1.00 additional.**  
Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net  
P.O. Box 1008, Antwerp, OH 45813  
**Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

**FORT DEFIANCE Antiques: 402 Clinton St. Downtown Defiance, OH. Hours M-Sat 10-5. 419-782-6003 tf**

**DESIGN-PRINT-ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing & Publishing can get you what you need FAST! Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000.**

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

**NEED SIGNS NOW? Get plastic, metal, posters and more! Call West Bend Printing, 419-258-2000**

**WANTED: Old toys, postcards, jewelry, coins, railroad items, watches, military collectibles, antiques, pens, stamps, comics, magazines, records. Paulding by the jail. (419)399-3353 or txt 419-786-9514. tf**

**TIRES FOR SALE: 4- 5 lug 16" Steel Rims & Tires previously on 2001 Dodge Ram 1500 truck. Tires have lots of tread but also some dry rot. Rims have some surface rust. \$125 obo. Call 419-258-0127**

## BLACK SWAMP BOY SCOUTS RECEIVE \$25,000 GRANT FOR KEITH HUBBARD DINING HALL



**Pictured during the announcement inside the dining hall were Marc Kogan, Scout Executive; Jim Rensi, a member of the DAF Grants Committee; and Dan Meffley, Past President of the Black Swamp Area Council.**

The Black Swamp Area Council of Boy Scouts has received a generous \$25,000 grant from the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) as part of its fall grant cycle. This funding was instrumental in completing the construction of the Keith Hubbard Dining Hall, a new facility that will benefit scouting programs and events in the community.

The Keith Hubbard Dining Hall is a significant addition, providing much-needed space for gatherings and further supporting the council's mission to inspire and equip young people through scouting initiatives. This grant reflects DAF's continued commitment to improving community resources and creating lasting impacts.

nity in the support of the Cutie Pie contest.

Trivia nights were held at the Oasis Bar and Grill on two separate occasions and chamber member organizers were pleased with the attendance.

Chamber members assisted the Antwerp Fire Department with the Halloween costume judging and provided funds for prize money.

Shop Antwerp First (formerly Small Business Saturday), was held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving this year in an attempt to capture those early holiday shoppers. A scavenger hunt and various receipt drawings, and a specials page was available for the shoppers. Thank you to all the businesses that provided an ad in the two page spread in the WBN the week before. Shop Small bags were available with goodies from many businesses in them.

Next, we held a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at Greenway Park next to the police station. The evening event was enhanced by the Antwerp Choir helping us usher in the holiday season.

Looking ahead, we anticipate hosting a Business After Hour's event in early 2025 for some networking and community conversation with Chamber businesses.

We are also looking to establish a Student Internship opportunity in 2025. More details to come.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce was the recipient of a 20 Year Member Award at the PCED Appreciation Banquet held in November.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce continues to be committed to all the businesses in the Antwerp community. We welcome any feedback from individuals or businesses with the purpose to promote business in Antwerp. We also encourage all members to join us at our monthly meetings which are held on the third Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. at the Pin-A-Rama Bowling Alley. You do not need to own a business to be a member of the Chamber. We have an individual membership category as well, so if you like the things we are doing or have ideas to help improve this organization, we invite you to join us.

Thank you, businesses, for all that you do to support the Chamber. We look forward to seeing all of you in 2025.

## BON SECOURS MERCY HEALTH RECOGNIZED FOR DIGITAL HEALTH EXCELLENCE

For the 17th consecutive year, Bon Secours Mercy Health (BSMH) has been named to the prestigious 2024 Digital Health Most Wired Survey, recognized by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME) for its outstanding integration of technology in patient care. BSMH earned honors in both the Level 9 Acute and Level 9 Ambulatory categories, demonstrating its leadership in advancing health care through digital innovations.

Mercy Health – Toledo is part of Bon Secours Mercy Health, one of the 20 largest health systems in the United States and the fifth-largest Catholic health system in the country. Serving 20 counties in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan. Mercy Health – Toledo has seven local hospitals, including two in Toledo and one in Oregon, Perrysburg, Tiffin, Willard, and Defiance as well as Life Flight critical air transport services.

"We are thrilled to receive

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

*Sudoku solution from page 9*

this recognition for our hospitals and ambulatory clinics," said Mike Hibbard, BSMH chief information officer. "This achievement reflects the high-quality, compassionate care our associates provide daily. It is also a testament to our ongoing commitment to digital excellence, ensuring that we provide the most advanced care possible for our patients."

BSMH's recognition on the 2024 Digital Health Most Wired list places the health system among the leaders in the digital health landscape. This distinction highlights BSMH's role in shaping the future of health care technology and its dedication to continually improving patient care through leading-edge digital strategies.

The Most Wired Survey, a global initiative by CHIME, serves as a comprehensive "Digital Health Check-up" for health care organizations. As digital health continues to influence patient care quality, the survey evaluates the adoption, integration, and impact of technologies across nearly 48,000 facilities worldwide. BSMH ranked above its peers in critical areas such as analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure and patient engagement.

"We are proud to be recognized among the industry leaders as a top performer in digital health," Hibbard added. "This achievement reflects our health system's dedication to utilizing technology to enhance patient outcomes and streamline care delivery."

BSMH's inclusion in the 2024 Most Wired Survey is more than just a recognition of technology—it reflects the collective commitment of BSMH's entire team to improving health care through digital transformation. By prioritizing innovation and technology, BSMH continues to advance health care for the future.

## 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**

## HELP WANTED

### Economic Development/Revolving Loan Fund Director

The Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO) is seeking an Economic Development/Revolving Loan Fund Director. MVPO is a non-profit, regional planning agency servicing Fulton, Henry, Defiance, Paulding and Williams Counties. This position is full-time. Pay will be commensurate with experience.

**Qualifications:** Comprehensive understanding of the operation of local and state government as applies to economic development; wide-ranging skills in finance, marketing, communications, and problem solving; sound independent judgment; initiative and the ability to effectively communicate and maintain effective working relationships with government officials, top-level business executives, citizens, community interest groups, and other government officials at the State, local, regional, and federal level.

**Education and Experience:** A degree in planning, public administration, business administration, financial management, or a related field or any combination of education, training, and considerable experience (minimum five years) which provides the skills, knowledge, and abilities is required, with a MPA or MBA desired.

**Benefits:** MVPO employees are members of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and enjoy benefits of retirement, healthcare, sick and vacation accrual, paid holidays and opportunities for professional development.

**Method of Application and Deadline:** All interested applicants must submit a resume and three professional references, along with a cover letter by January 15, 2025, to:

Maumee Valley Planning Organization

1300 East Second Street, Suite 200 Defiance, OH 43512

Or e-mail to:

mvpo@mvpo.org

*Equal Opportunity Employer*

For a more complete job description, please visit our website at [www.mvpo.org](http://www.mvpo.org)



## ANTWERP COMMUNITY BAND CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS AND MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY IN STYLE



The Antwerp Community Band filled the air with holiday cheer on December 19th during their annual Christmas Concert at the Huber Opera House in Hicksville, OH. This year's event marked a special milestone for conductor Steve Hahn, celebrating his 20th year at the helm of the ensemble.

Under Hahn's direction, the band delivered a stunning lineup of holiday classics and festive favorites. Highlights included spirited renditions of "Sleigh Ride" and "Christmas Festival," which brought smiles to the packed audience. Each piece was a testament to Hahn's dedication, as his leadership and passion for music have guided the band through two decades of performances.

Musicians of all ages, from high school students to retirees, came together in a remarkable display of community spirit. The brass section

dazzled with their synchronized melodies, while the woodwinds offered intricate harmonies that added depth to the evening's music. The percussion section provided dynamic rhythms that echoed the joy of the season. Each member played with enthusiasm, embodying the holiday spirit.

The evening concluded with a standing ovation as the band performed "Great Songs of Christmas." Attendees left with warm hearts and holiday memories, eagerly anticipating next year's concert.

Steve Hahn's two-decade tenure has been transformative for the Antwerp Community Band. Under his guidance, the ensemble has grown in size and skill, becoming a cherished part of Antwerp's cultural fabric. Hahn's dedication to fostering a love for music in the community has inspired countless musicians and delighted au-

diences year after year.

The Antwerp Community Band's Christmas Concert not only celebrated the season but also paid tribute to Hahn's enduring contributions. The band and its supporters look forward to many more years of musical excellence under his leadership.

The annual Christmas Concert is a beloved tradition, drawing families and friends together to share in the joy of music. This year's celebration was no exception, offering a magical evening that exemplified the spirit of togetherness and gratitude.

As the curtain closed on the 2024 Christmas Concert, one thing was clear: the Antwerp Community Band, led by Steve Hahn, continues to be a shining light in the area, spreading holiday joy and uniting its residents through the universal language of music.

## ANTWERP SENIOR RECOGNIZED AT RECENT SCHOOL BOARD MEETING



Derek Hines was given the Superintendent's Award by Dr. Marty Miller for his outstanding ambition and initiative for his future career plans.

President Sara Schuette opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance on Decem-

ber 19.

Bob Herber gave the liaison report - House bill 32 - will

have a 2 year option for certifications for new teachers. The "bathroom" bill is now signed that boys and girls have to use their own bathrooms - House bill introduces that parents must be made aware of sexually content aware material.

Dennis Recker gave the Vantage Report - at the November 7 meeting it was discussed having an updated look for their 50 year celebration. The CDL trucking has been greatly updated and they are looking for CDL instructors.

Kristine Stuart gave the financial summary report:  
Income: \$675780.86  
Expenses: \$1,099,998.97  
Interest: \$37953.16

Stuart said she has acquired a new CD of \$724,000. The state auditors are inspecting the school books now. 45% income has been received and 40% of the expenditures have taken place and finances are

still within 2% of the spending forecast.

Ms Arnold gave the high school principal's report stating that Mrs Hammer and she are working to increase in-house electives for next year. A junior high wrestling meet will take place over the winter break. The winter band and choir concerts both took place this last week. She congratulated the music arts teachers for their tremendous work.

Elementary Principal Doug Billman stated that Coach Altimus and he will put together a special night for the 2019-2020 team that missed their almost undefeated season celebration that will take place on December 21 at the half time of varsity game. K-5 just received their November Students of the months. The vision outreach program in conjunction with Mrs Cline was just completed. 27 kids received an eye exam and 12 will be getting vision assistance. The PTO bowling and rewards was a success along with Bingo night. Mrs Newell for the 2nd and 3rd grade Winter concert was very entertaining. Candy Cane bingo was just completed for the AR rewards. The first grade trip for caroling to senior at the Antwerp Manor went off well too. The DARE program also has been in full swing with their party coming up in January.

Dr. Marty Miller stated there was a lot of great things happening at the school. He said it's been remarkable with the new staff. Mrs Elise Boyer has started the internship program. Derek Hines spoke at the meeting about his internship. He met with TJ Short and then decided he wanted to help with realtor showings. Derek talked about an event he was invited in Nashville, TN.

Kendra Spieth was placed in a new position at the school as an RBT in training to help address issues in behavior.

Technology Director Harold Gottke said there are new cameras now installed at the school that have the ability of new AI recognition.

Dr. Miller explained the 2025-26 school calendar plan to the school board members and the deadlines they are seeking for certain events, and voted on this at the end of the meeting. Mrs. Boyer gave an end of the year test to third graders earlier this year and then will be again in April to see what their improvements

## GLEANERS VOLUNTEER RECIPIENTS FOR 2024



Shown in the photo are Guy Dasher, Carol Razo, and Tori Schlatter.

The Black Swamp Gleaner Arbor has selected three people to be the Volunteer Recipients of the year for 2024. In the over 65 age group, Guy Dasher was presented with the award, in the 18-64 age group, Carol Razo was presented with the award, and in the under 18 age group, Tori Schlatter was presented with

the award.

A special evening was held on Monday, December 16th with all three along with members of their family in attendance at Manz Accounting where John Manz was able to recognize each one of them for their excellent volunteer efforts put forth for our community.

will be from the beginning to the end of the year. The third graders passed, surprisingly, at 74% - at only 6 weeks after being second graders. This was the highest average test grades of any school in the area. Marty talked about his tech trip that took place in Jersey City. Miller also discussed behavioral issues and solutions that have increased over the last few years. The statics show that there used to be 1 in 100,000, now it's 1 in 100 or maybe even higher rates at Antwerp.

The EPA gave an award and a grant to the school.

The special education department received a banner with a "Step to Quality" message for receiving a "silver" award. The Future of Technology in Education conference is taking place in Atlanta, and

Marty has been asked to be a presenter "The Alphas, AI, and the Metaverse" is the title of his presentation.

Keith and Kathy Nern made a donation, and Jama Cline applied for a grant opportunity and the school received that grant for another AED.

There is a new freedom of speech rule to be approved in 2265 NEOLA policy.

The 4th Graders made some Christmas ornaments for the School Board using their new X-Tool.

The book vending machine has arrived, and will be introduced after the Christmas break

On January 8 at 5pm the School board scheduled their annual organizational meeting with a board meeting to follow immediately.

## PCED REVIEWS & DISCUSS 2025 PLANS & BUDGET

The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Board of Directors gathered for their final lunch meeting of 2024 to establish final details for a 2025 operating budget. Lively discussion took place as the group listened to recommendations from the Financial Committee and analyzed both income and expense line items to try and establish a final budget for next year.

PCED Director Tim Copsey updated the board on current project updates including the potential 80-acre development project near the US24/SR 49 intersection in Antwerp; a water/sewer feasibility study at the US24/US127 interchange; the Grizzley and Stokely brown-field projects and the 53-acre industrial park all located in Paulding Village.

Old business discussion included marketing updates on the PCED website and a business vehicle purchase. The Marketing Committee is looking at updates on the company website to modernize a section explaining the history of the county. The hope is that the summary will be more in regard to recent economic development and less about the actual history of the county. A future committee meeting is scheduled.

Discussion also continued

in regard to the purchase of a company vehicle for the office. Paying out mileage for monthly company driven miles is getting more expensive and often fluctuates depending on inside and outside of county business travel. The hope is that a purchased vehicle will allow more standard control of monthly costs. The project will continue to be studied and evaluated by the financial committee before a final decision is voted on.

Regarding new business, the financial committee proposed a thought to the board in a potential future conversion of office accounting, from a traditional Quickbooks program, to a not-for-profit accounting system. There is a full understanding the accounting would be quite different, but it may be more accurate accounting for the larger amount of earmarked funds the office is handling. This will also be a continued board discussion.

The board also started the opening process of putting together a slate of 2025 officers. This slate will be presented to be voted on in the January 2025 board meeting.

The meeting closed out with the board members each sharing business updates with each other. This sharing of information often entices collaboration and powerful business discussion for future economic development thought throughout the county.

