

## MERRY & BRIGHT IN PAULDING



Herb Monroe Park in Paulding transformed into a winter wonderland just in time for the Merry & Bright Parade in Paulding on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

By: Julie Anna Densmore

Paulding – Paulding’s Town Square was full of Christmas spirit on Monday, December 1, as the annual Merry & Bright Parade stepped off in an already snow-covered village. The night was straight out of an idyllic small-town Christmas scene: the courthouse, storefronts, and park shimmered with decorations, and just as the parade began at 6:00 p.m.,

fresh snow started to fall and continued throughout the procession, adding a touch of Christmas magic to the evening.

Families bundled up along Jackson Street with hot cocoa in hand as a procession of 22 groups, organizations, and local businesses made their way from St. Paul Lutheran Church down to the Post Office. Children waved excitedly as participants tossed candy

along the snowy streets and visited with Santa by the roaring fire at a sparkling Herb Monroe Park.

CoRP (Community Revitalizing Paulding) organizes the parade each year, along with the festive lighting around the Courthouse Square. This year, the Paulding High School football team and coaches volunteered their

(Continued on Page 2)

### DEFIANCE COUNTY RECEIVES \$1,250,000 IN GRANTS FOR COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Defiance County is one of more than two dozen Ohio communities receiving funding to complete neighborhood improvement projects aimed at improving the quality of life for residents. In total, 26 communities will receive nearly \$13.8 million.

The funding is available through the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program which is administered by the Ohio Department of Development.

Today’s award will support Hicksville Village with the replacement of a water main at Columbia and Hattery with \$500,000 and a revitalization project for Sherwood Village for the repair and replacement of various infrastructure including streets, flood and drainage systems, sewers, sidewalks, curbs, and parking with \$750,000.

“With this funding, we’re strengthening the foundations of our communities,” said Governor DeWine. “These projects will improve water and sewer systems, upgrade local parks and streets, and help ensure every Ohioan — and every family — can live in a safer, stronger neighborhood.”

“Investments made in our infrastructure are investments made in our people,” said Lt. Governor Tressel. “By helping communities replace these aging systems and facilities, we’re improving the daily lives of our hard-working residents and supporting the long-term growth of local economies.”

Of the total funding, eight communities will receive a shared total of \$6 million in Neighborhood Revitalization grants.

(Continued on Page 5)



### PCH RECOGNIZED WITH 2025 PERFORMANCE LEADERSHIP AWARD BY THE CHARTIS CENTER FOR RURAL HEALTH

As part of National Rural Health Day, Paulding County Hospital today announced it has earned a 2025 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Quality, Outcomes and Patient Perspective. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards program recognizes top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above)

among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes, and/or Patient Perspective.

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

(Continued on Page 3)

### ANTWERP COMMUNITY BAND’S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Christmas season is a delight for all the senses - we see the sparkling lights, taste fresh-baked cookies, smell the pine resin on the tree, feel the warmth of family and friends and not least of all, hear the holiday’s special music. For the music: The Antwerp Community Band invites all of you to our annual Christmas concert at 7:30 pm on Thursday, December 18, at the Huber Opera House in Hicksville. The Band has been together for more than thirty

years and although we thoroughly enjoy making music together for all occasions, the best of the best is preparing for and presenting a Christmas concert for our supporters. This year’s holiday music is familiar to everyone and spans hundreds of years from the fifteenth to the twenty-first centuries. Among the selections on the program: "The Sweet Sounds of Christmas", a medley featuring "The Holly and the Ivy" and "Go Tell It On the Mountain", John Rutter's "Candlelight Carol", "Holiday Cheer", and two modern classics, selections from "The Po-

(Continued on Page 4)

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

## Community Calendar

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

December 8  
• Def. Paulding Consolidated JFS board meeting @ PC Comm. Session Rm., 11a

December 9  
• PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p – CANCELLED  
• Friends & Fam. Support Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding 6-7p

December 11  
• Winter Wonderland @ PC Library, Paulding, 5-6p  
• Oakwood Christmas @ Oakwood Library, 5-7:30p  
• Senior Citizens Breakfast @ PHS, 8:30a, entertainment to follow

December 12  
• Hicksville School Music Concert @ The Huber, 7p  
• Country Christmas Concert w/ Daryl Wayne Dasher @ PHS 6:30p  
• A Christmas Story: The Play @ Studio 211, Antwerp

December 13  
• Five Star Dance Christmas Spectacular @ The Huber, Hicksville, 2p & 6p  
• Wreaths Across America @ St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding, 12:00 Noon  
• Christmas Band Concert @ PC Library, Paulding, 6-p  
• A Christmas Story: The Play @ Studio 211, Antwerp

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



## OBITUARIES



#587 Honor Guard.

Visitation will be from 2:00-8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH. There will also be visitation from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the funeral home on Wednesday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Roy's memory to the American Cancer Society or to the American Heart Association.

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

ANTWERP, OH:

**Thomas M. Baum**, 77, of Antwerp, passed away Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at Parkview Regional Medical Center. DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME OF ANTWERP.

ANTWERP, OH:

**Donna Irene Miller**, 67, formerly of Antwerp, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, November 17, 2025 at The Gardens of Paulding. DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME OF ANTWERP.

ANTWERP, OH:

**Joseph G. Wenzlick** 79 of Antwerp, Ohio formerly of Ottoville, Ohio passed away on Tuesday, November 18, 2025 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana, surrounded by his family. DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME OF ANTWERP.

PAYNE, OH:

**Richard R. Schmidt**, 97, of Payne, Ohio passed away Sunday, November 23, 2025 at The Country Inn Enhanced Living Center. DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME OF PAYNE.

ANTWERP, OH:

**Margaret A. Womack**, 86, of Antwerp, Ohio passed away Monday, December 1, 2025 at Vancrest of Payne. DOOLEY FUNERAL HOME OF ANTWERP.

### PARKVIEW HEALTH EARNS GREAT PLACE TO WORK CERTIFICATION

Parkview Health has recently received its first-ever certification by Great Place To Work®, recognizing Parkview for its excellent culture and workplace environment.

Parkview's job satisfaction was 30 percentage points higher than the U.S. employer average.

"At Parkview, while our co-workers are focused on providing excellent care to those we serve, we are focused on cultivating a workplace culture that helps attract, and most importantly, retain the best talent," said Dena Jacquay, chief administrative officer, Parkview Health. "We are extremely grateful and humbled that our co-workers have once again made it clear that Parkview - is a Great Place To Work."

Great Place To Work is the global authority on workplace culture, employee experience and the leadership behaviors proven to deliver market-leading revenue, em-

ployee retention and increased innovation. According to Great Place To Work research, job seekers are 4.5 times more likely to find a great boss at a Certified great workplace. Additionally, employees at Certified workplaces are 93% more likely to look forward to coming to work, and are twice as likely to be paid fairly, earn a fair share of the company's profits and have a fair chance at promotion.

In order to receive certification, Parkview provided information about its workforce, benefits and culture and surveyed co-workers asking what they thought about working for Parkview.

Parkview regularly solicits feedback from co-workers, whether through the systemwide Listening Tour focus groups, an annual culture survey, stay interviews with co-workers, or the CEOnDemand platform. Numerous new benefits have come in direct response to co-worker feedback, with nearly two dozen changes as part of the ongoing Your Voice Matters campaign.

Parkview currently employs more than 17,500 people across more than 20 counties and maintains a voluntary retention rate of more than 90%, more than five percentage points higher than national benchmarks for healthcare organizations.

"Parkview is proud to be recognized as a top workplace for physicians, nurses, and caregivers of all types," said Dr. Ray Dusman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "Everything we do begins with our people—their compassion, skill and teamwork. When we invest in their success, our patients and communities benefit from the exceptional care they deserve."

Parkview's Great Places To Work certification is the latest in a series of awards recognizing Parkview's workplace culture. Parkview has been certified as a Most Loved Workplace for three consecutive years, ranking No. 5 in the nation in 2025; been named among Becker's Healthcare's 150 Top Places to Work in Healthcare; named a Forbes Best-in-State Employer for four consecutive years; named the No. 1 nonprofit, No. 31 overall in North America and No. 43 globally by Inspiring Workplaces Group; and selected among Newsweek's Greatest Workplaces in Healthcare.

### THE ASPEN INSTITUTE NAMES NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AS A TOP 200 U.S. COMMUNITY COLLEGE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 2027 ASPEN PRIZE

The Aspen Institute named Northwest State Community College as one of the 200 institutions eligible to compete for

the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier recognition of high achievement and performance among two-year colleges. The 200 colleges were selected based on their student outcomes data, including retention, completion, transfer, and bachelor's attainment rates. Started in 2010, this is the ninth cycle of the Aspen Prize.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez recognizes all faculty, staff, and administration on behalf of the College, noting: "To be among the 200 institutions nationwide in consideration of this prestigious award means that everyone at Northwest State is working hard every day to elevate the student experience. By providing great hands-on education, training and services, we are living our mission of improving lives and strengthening communities, one student at a time. Through this work, we are also actively leaning in to our 'Elevate Northwest Ohio' initiative, aimed at increasing the college attainment levels in our six-county service area."

Together, these 200 colleges represent the breadth and diversity of the community college sector. They are located in urban, rural, and suburban areas across the country and serve anywhere from a few hundred students to tens of thousands. Some of these colleges focus primarily on workforce programs, while others focus on transfer and bachelor's attainment or a combination of the two.

"The Aspen Prize rewards colleges that achieve the kind of outcomes that actually matter to students—completing college degree programs that, in turn, lead to lifelong success," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Aspen Prize winners offer a powerful message: Community colleges can deliver the kind of life-changing education that makes the American Dream real."

Community colleges educate nearly six million students. Yet community college student outcomes fall short in both the rate at which students graduate and the percentage of students who achieve success after graduation. The Aspen Prize process identifies and celebrates community colleges that demonstrate that achieving stronger outcomes is possible, providing a roadmap of effective practices and strategies for other colleges to follow.

The 200 eligible colleges have been invited to submit an application and participate in a rigorous review process that will culminate in the naming of the Aspen Prize winner in spring 2027. Over the coming 20 months, the colleges that apply for the Aspen Prize will be assessed based on (1) student outcomes data, ranging

(Continued from Page 1)

time to help CoRP hang Christmas lights downtown; an effort warmly appreciated by the organization for the team's service and commitment to the community.

The parade followed a busy couple of weeks of holiday activities in Paulding. The Historical Society's week-long Festival of Trees at the Paulding County Historical Museum drew visitors from across the region, while the

Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce's Shop the Village event encouraged residents and visitors to explore local businesses. Together with Monday night's snow-filled parade, these events created a joyful and energetic start to the Christmas season.

CoRP extends its thanks to all participants, volunteers, and community members who helped make this year's Merry & Bright Parade another memorable community celebration.

## Scripture of the Week

"Therefore Jesus said again, "Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep."

— John 10:7,9-10

## HOPE



Hope is a central theme of the Advent season, representing the anticipation and longing for the coming of Christ. As Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, hope emerges as a guiding light, permeating the darkness of uncertainty and despair so prevalent in today's society.

During Advent, hope invites us to reflect on the promises made by God throughout history, particularly the promise of salvation and redemption through Jesus. This season encourages believers to embrace the hope that Jesus brings—not just as a historical figure born over two thousand years ago, but as a living presence in our lives today.

The four weeks of Advent highlight different aspects of hope. The first week often focuses on the hope that came with the prophetic messages in the Old Testament, which spoke of a Messiah. This hope rejuvenates our hearts as we recognize how these ancient prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus.

In the second week, we reflect on the hope born from faith. It's a reminder to trust in

God's plan, even when circumstances seem bleak. The stories of Zechariah and Elizabeth, and of Sarah and Abraham, who longed for a child, teach us that hope sometimes requires patience and perseverance.

The third week emphasizes joy, which is deeply connected to hope. The joy we experience during this festive time is a direct result of our hope in Christ. This joyous hope is a reminder that something wonderful is about to happen.

Finally, the fourth week of Advent draws our attention to the reality of hope manifesting in the world through love. It culminates in the anticipation of Jesus' birth, showcasing the ultimate fulfillment of hope—a God who chooses to dwell among us. Emanuel God with us.

In celebrating Advent, we are invited to nurture our own sense of hope, allowing it to inspire us to share that hope with others. Whether through acts of kindness, community service, or simply uplifting conversations, the essence of hope is to be a force for good in the world. Like a holy Jedi (smile). May the force be with you.

Ultimately, Advent is not merely about looking back at the coming of Christ but also about looking forward with hope. It reminds us to foster an expectation of the future—trusting that, just as Christ came in the past, He will come again, bringing hope to all creation. Please don't give up. No matter what the situation or circumstances, place your trust and hope in Christ today.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

from student transfer and completion rates to employment and wages after graduation and (2) whether they have engaged in scaled practices that led to high and improving student outcomes.

"Among these 200 colleges are some really special places that deliver strong and improving outcomes for students across the board," Wyner said. "Our job over the coming 20 months is to gather a lot more data and work with a deep bench of field experts to assess which of these 200 stand out so we can not only honor them with a monetary award, but drive attention to the most effective field practices that other colleges can replicate."

This is the first time since the inception of the Aspen Prize that 200 colleges are eligible to apply, growing from 150. This year, in addition to publicly available federal data, over 600 colleges authorized the use of National Student Clearinghouse data on their institution's degree completion, transfer, and bachelor's

attainment rates for full- and part-time students.

The full list can be accessed on the Aspen Prize homepage.

The next steps in the process include:

- November 13/December 9, 2025: Application deadlines for the 2027 Prize

- April 2026: Announcement of 25 semifinalists, selected based on assessments of extensive data and the application by a group of 11 experts

**Pastor Dwayne Richardson**  
will be preaching at  
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**Dec 24th -  
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**Peace & Love,**

—Pastor Dwayne  
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# L - O - L

**Penny For Your Thought**  
**By: Nancy Whitaker**  
We all like to laugh and some days need a good laugh. I have always liked one liners and puns, Find A Word and Crossword puzzles.  
I went to computer school clear back in the 60's and computers were almost as big as a king sized bed. Never did I think you would be able to use a computer on a phone.  
Since I am older and find I have some spare time on my hands, I like to surf the net and read interesting, funny and different articles.  
So I thought I may need a laugh today and I found a website called "Did you hear about jokes?" I read some of them and thought someone else may need a laugh today too.  
So here are some "Did you hear about jokes."  
*Did you hear about the monkeys who shared an Amazon account?*  
—They were prime mates  
*Did you hear about the guy who invented the knock-knock joke?*  
—He won the 'no-bell' prize.  
*Did you hear about the man who was fired for stealing potatoes?*  
—He got the sack  
*Did you hear about the cow that can't produce milk?*

—They're an udder failure.  
*Did you hear about the two fries walking down the side walk?*  
—They were A salted  
*Did you hear about the narcissistic, self-destructive, cannibal?*  
—He was full of himself.  
*Did you hear about McDonald's trying to get into the high end steakhouse market?*  
—It was a Big McSteak  
*Did you hear about the guy who invented Lifesavers and got rich?*  
—He made a mint  
*Did you hear about the duck who got a nose job?*  
—He didn't like the bill.



*Did you hear about the baker that got arrested?*  
—He spent a dozen weeks in custody  
*Did you hear about the Mucinex truck that collided with a Nyquil truck on the highway?*  
—Amazingly, the entire area was congestion-free for over 8 hours.  
*Did you hear about the three holes in the ground?*  
—Well, well, well...  
I don't claim to be a comedian but I do like to laugh when I get the opportunity. Did you like these short funny jokes? Did you laugh? Do you know any jokes? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

challenges. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has a campus in Aspen, Colorado, as well as an international network of partners. For more information, visit [www.aspeninstitute.org](http://www.aspeninstitute.org).

## ANTWERP PLANNING, ZONING COMMITTEE REVIEWS WORKFORCE HOUSING GRANT, ZONING ROLE

The Antwerp Village Planning and Zoning Committee met Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 5 p.m. with Mayor Jan Reeb, Village Administrator Brian Davis and committee members Mark Greenwood, Bill Boylan and Matt Hormann in attendance. Committee member John Ganger was absent.

The primary discussion centered on the proposed "Antwerp Square" workforce housing project and the state's new Residential Economic Development (RED) grant program, as well as the future role of the village zoning inspector and enforcement of zoning regulations.

Greenwood reported that after reviewing the draft ordinance prepared for council related to the RED grant, he found conflicts between the language in the ordinance, the project drawings and the village's existing zoning regulations. In particular, the ordinance as drafted attempted to grant zoning variances and waive several fees by ordinance.

Greenwood noted that under the village zoning book, variances must be handled through the formal variance process and cannot be granted by ordinance. "You are making zoning variances in an ordinance, and that is not allowed," he told the committee, adding that the development partners themselves are not yet ready to commit to specific variances because the project remains in the "scoping phase," not full preliminary plan review.

According to Greenwood, the developers' immediate need is not a set of variances but a clear commitment from the village that Antwerp will work with them on zoning and be flexible on certain fees to strengthen their RED grant application. The grant, a new state program aimed at workforce housing, awards points based on how many "pro-housing" criteria a community can demonstrate, including local financial participation and supportive policies.

Davis outlined two ordinances scheduled to go before council at its upcoming meeting. The first would establish the Antwerp Square housing district and adopt "pro-housing" policies to qualify the village for maximum RED funding. The second would authorize the mayor to pursue the grant on behalf of the village. The Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) has agreed to donate \$25,000 toward the required local match, and a companion ordinance has been drafted asking

the village to contribute another \$25,000 for a total of \$50,000.

Greenwood said he was comfortable with an ordinance authorizing pursuit of the grant and documenting the village's financial commitment, but recommended removing the sections that attempted to pre-approve zoning variances and waive zoning and planning review fees. Those issues, he said, can be addressed later once engineering and preliminary plans are complete. Committee members generally agreed that the variance language should be taken out, and Davis said he would contact the village solicitor to adjust the draft before it goes to council.

The committee also discussed the potential impact of the project on village infrastructure. Davis noted that village water usage averages around 130,000 gallons per day, while the plant can produce roughly 800,000 to one million gallons in the same period, leaving capacity for growth. Some improvements, such as possibly adding a pump at the Harmann Road lift station, may be needed if the subdivision moves forward. Two retention areas are included in the concept plan to manage stormwater runoff because of the flat terrain. Members also briefly mentioned that increased traffic may eventually justify a traffic signal at the intersection of State Route 49 and Meyer St. and improvements to the narrow drive by the water plant.

Later in the meeting, the committee turned to internal zoning matters, including the resignation of zoning inspector Daniel Dunlap, who recently notified the mayor and certain members of the zoning board. Committee members acknowledged that replacing him will not be easy.

Davis suggested the village consider splitting zoning responsibilities into two roles: a zoning enforcement officer working under the police chief for roughly 10 hours per week, and a separate zoning inspector/administrative role to handle permits and paperwork. Under this concept, the enforcement officer would patrol periodically, respond to complaints, address issues such as tall grass and junk vehicles, and, when necessary, pursue violations through Mayor's Court. The zoning inspector would focus on processing applications, collecting fees, issuing permits and coordinating with the county auditor and fiscal officer.

"What you want and how much you're willing to spend is ultimately up to the mayor and council," Davis said, emphasizing the need to clearly define the position before attempting to fill it. He also cautioned against the village issuing "letters of occupancy," noting that neither the administrator nor the zoning inspector is a licensed electrician, plumber or HVAC professional, which could expose the village to liability if something

**The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.**  
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**Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.**

## MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



**By: Mark Holtsberry**

Virgil Hudson was born September 11, 1899 in Paulding, Ohio. The son of Edward E., born December 4, 1865 in Henry County, Ohio and Alma O. (Barnes) Hudson born March 20, 1870 in Jackson Township, Paulding County.

This couple was married January 17, 1894 in Paulding. This happy couple were blessed with two children. A daughter Edna Vera was born in November of 1895, and a son, Virgil. By 1900, the Hudson family was living in Paulding. Edward was working as a grocer. The Hudson family also had a servant named Edna M. Powell, she was 13 years old. She had a family which lived in Jackson Township.

By 1910, the family had moved to the country in Jackson Township. Edward took on the role as a farmer. The kids were in school. Virgil's sister Edna, married a fellow named Franklin Clifford Schreiner on October 18, 1916 in Jackson, Michigan. On September 12, 1918, Virgil had registered for the draft.

He was listed as single, 5'7" tall, light brown hair, brown eyes, medium and slender build. He was working for his dad as a farm laborer, but also was a student at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. October 7, 1918, he was enlisted into the S.A.T.C. program. This stands for, Student

later went wrong.

The committee briefly discussed improving public access to zoning and subdivision regulations on the village website. While the main zoning manual is available online, Boylan noted some of the subdivision-specific ordinances adopted in the 1990s may not yet be posted and will need to be added.

Finally, members asked about the status of revisions to the village's hazardous structures ordinance. Boylan reported that updated language, along with the original 2013 version, had been provided to the village solicitor for review

Army Training Corp. This would make him eligible for officer material. He was Honorably Discharged from service December 12, 1918.

Virgil moved in with his parents after he came home from college. He became a school teacher. January 25, 1920, Virgil's mother passed away. On June 28, 1928, in Paulding, Ohio, Virgil married a gal named, Hazel Strayer. Born May 13, 1901 in Payne, Ohio. The daughter of Jeremiah and Minnie Strayer. By 1930, Virgil and Minnie were living with Edward. Virgil still teaching and helping on the farm. On May 17, 1932, Edward passed away in Jackson Township.

On May 26, 1932, Virgil and Minnie were blessed with the birth of a son, Jerry Edward Hudson. In later life, Jerry enlisted in the Marine Corp after high school and he made a career out of it. On February 8, 1935, a son, Thomas Paul Hudson was born. He passed away, February 10, 1935 in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Virgil passed away, February 8, 1935 in Ft. Wayne at the Irene Byron Tuberculosis Sanatorium. He died of a far advanced pulmonary and acute tuberculosis. Both Virgil and Thomas were buried in Live Oak Cemetery, Lot 244, Block G. Grave 6. Hazel never remarried. She worked and retired from General Electric in Ft. Wayne.

She passed away June 5, 1982 in Ft. Wayne. The Rev. Jackie Leigh officiating. She is buried with Virgil and Thomas in Live Oak Cemetery. As for their son Jerry, he retired in 1971 from the Marine Corp with the rank of Major after serving 21 years. He served as a drill instructor in Korea, Japan and Vietnam. He was an intelligence officer at the Battle of Khe Sanh. He moved to North Carolina to attain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He taught at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. He retired in 1989. He passed away from cancer June 29, 2005 at his home.

and possible consolidation. However, the solicitor is not expected to attend the upcoming council meeting, so no update is anticipated until January or later.

With no further business, the committee agreed there is no need to hold regular Planning and Zoning Committee meetings until there is new information on the RED grant, hazardous structures ordinance or other zoning issues. Davis was asked to remove the standing meeting from the calendar "for the foreseeable future," with the understanding that the committee will reconvene as needed.

in community colleges, higher education, and workforce

- June 2026: Announcement of 10 finalists, selected by the same group of experts
- Fall 2026: Collection of additional data from the 10 finalists, including employment and earnings data for graduates from 2020 and 2025, as well as qualitative assessments of practices by field experts during multi-day site visits to each of the 10 finalists
- February 2027: The Aspen Prize winner selected by a distinguished, independent jury
- Spring 2027: Announcement of the Aspen Prize winner and celebration of the 10 finalists at an event in Washington, D.C.

To read more about the selection process, visit [as.pn/prize](http://as.pn/prize).

The Aspen Prize is generously funded by Ascendium Education Philanthropy and the Joyce Foundation.

Previous winners are:

- 2025: Southwest Wisconsin Technical College (WI)
- 2023: Amarillo College (TX) and Imperial Valley College (CA)
- 2021: San Antonio College (TX)

- 2019: Indian River State College (FL) and Miami Dade College (FL)
- 2017: Lake Area Technical Institute (SD)
- 2015: Santa Fe College (FL)
- 2013: Santa Barbara City College (CA) & Walla Walla Community College (WA)
- 2011: Valencia College (FL)

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(Continued from Page 1)

multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance. "The areas of quality, outcomes, and patient perspective are cornerstones of healthcare delivery across ru-

ral America, and this year's Performance Leadership Award recipients are establishing a standard of excellence for their rural peers to follow," said Michael Topchik, Executive Director, Chartis Center for Rural Health.

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# FRIENDS OF INDEPENDENCE DAM RECEIVE \$5,000 GRANT FOR NEW PAVILION PROJECT



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Randy Wright - Friends of the Ind. Dam State Park President and Dan Michel - DAF Board President.

Congratulations to the Friends of Independence Dam State Park for receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) during their fall grant cycle. This grant was given from the Capital Projects Fund, under the DAF umbrella and will be used towards a new pavilion

## DEFIANCE COUNTY BOARD OF DD RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Jenna Peper, Communications and Community Engagement Coordinator; Heidi Hull, Superintendent; Chris Yoder, DAF Executive Director; and Karrah Rath, Director of Business Operations.

The Defiance County Board of Developmental Disabilities/Good Samaritan School has been awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Defiance Area Foundation Com-

munity Fund. The funding will support updates to the school's cafeteria countertops and provide new technology resources for students.

in the parks marina space by the dam. Pictured is a mock up of something similar that will be built after full funding is secured.

## CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) IN DEER

Deer mating season (rutting has started), so deer are on the move. Hunters need to be aware of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD); a fatal, infectious disease affecting the nervous system of deer. It is caused by misfolded proteins called prions. It spreads through direct animal contact, contaminated environments, and bodily fluids, and animals can shed prions for years before showing symptoms like weight loss, poor coordination, and drooping ears. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) recommends not consuming meat from CWD-positive animals and taking precautions like wearing gloves and avoiding brain tissue when handling deer carcasses.

CWD has been found in Northwest Ohio. Major hot spot are Wyandot, Marion, and Hardin Counties but many surrounding counties are also affected with confirmed cases in Allen and Morrow Counties. Not all deer are tested, so since the deer population is mobile and far ranging, it could easily be spreading.

CWD is very similar to other prion diseases that affect the brain including "mad cow disease", Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and scrapies in sheep; with symptoms resembling Alzheimer's disease. The big issue is that recently some macaque monkeys were fed meat from CWD-infected white-tailed deer that didn't look sick. The monkey's got

sick from prions in the deer's red meat. Most research scientist recommend that no one eat the meat of any prion-infected deer. However, there is more research which says something else.

CWD most resembles scrapie of sheep. The scrapie disease has been around for hundreds thousands of years; so, millions of people have been exposed to scrapie with no evidence of transmission. Some research shows that CWD prions are simply in the wrong shape to interact with human prions. There is research on both sides of CWD infected meat.

There may be a CWD's species barrier. Amino acid sequence differed between humans and deer at a key location. A different study showed that the macaque monkey amino acids matched the deer sequence in the same spot, but not the human one. Thus, the CWD species barrier may help keep humans safe. The key word is "MAY?" However, so far, no one had died from CWD. Therein lies the controversy with CWD.

Jeff Sindelar, an associate professor of meat science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, says, these are socially-based concerns, not concerns based on science. "There has never been a link between eating venison and CWD," he says. "The risk is not zero, but it's pretty close to zero." Unfortunately, it is not a total black and white issue

CWD is a brain disease caused by prions (unfolded proteins) that damage the brain and nervous system. Prions may persist many years and are shed in saliva, urine, and feces. Deer, elk, moose, reindeer are affected. The disease spreads through direct contact between animals and indirectly through contaminated carcasses.

CWD Symptoms and signs include odd behavior and reduced fear of humans. Infected animals have drastic weight loss, drooping head and ears, glassy eyes, drooling and poor coordination. Animals close to death seem in a daze, may have a high fever, and often search out water. One farmer said he saw a deer in a corner of a corn field which he passed 3X as he was hauling corn. He got out of the truck, approached the animal and even petted it (not a good idea.) It later disappeared. Another farmer said he found five dead deer near his pond. Some deer may be infected with the CWD disease for years and not die immediately from it.

Here are some general recommendations. Avoid supplemental feeding sites because both healthy and sick diseased animals congregate at these locations which makes the spreading of the disease more prevalent. Wear gloves when processing deer. Avoid handling the brain or nervous system (spinal cord) of all deer harvested. Avoid deer with flaky or misshapen hooves. Dispose of deer carcasses following all state and local guidelines. Go to the ODNR-ADDL website for details. ODNR suggests avoiding urine-based lures because they can contain prions and persist for many years in the



## FU FU FARMERS

In my dreams I see a garden club joining with some FFA students making a summer garden. I know one church that has the most beautiful garden run by volunteers. A beautiful garden could be in a backyard, 6 or 9 raised beds 6 in high, 4 ft by 12 ft. Excellent soil, perhaps 2 ft wide stone paths. There are some beautiful backyard gardens complete with chickens in the heart of Boston.

In your area you have some of the best soil in the world. If you're familiar with the Black Swamp, the soil is the most mellow you will find. I grew up on the corner of Ricker and Notestein Roads, 1 mi north of Highway 37. Our ground was stonehard clay. Go south one mile, cross hwy 37, beautiful black loam. A very prosperous business, Schmucker Produce. 1 mi south of Highway 37, in the Black Swamp.

Somehow we must quit using good farm ground for building houses or creating farms of solar panels. I even cringe at the thought of using thousands of acres of the best farmland in the world, to make a super highway. What is so important about getting from Fort Wayne to Toledo in 45 minutes. Is going a bit slower on old hwy 24 going to impact your life negatively.

When I think of fu fu farmers, I think of visiting my son in Bloomington, Illinois. Each fall we would go to an Apple Festival, which had an orchard, a bakery, mostly pies, and ride out to the field to pick out an expensive pumpkin. A farm north of Auburn holds parties and wedding recep-

tions. Perhaps even do something like this on smaller acreage. Near Bloomington, Illinois, is a cheese store, which is made on site in a trailer. They even have their own cows. On a trip out west, our family stopped at the Honey Factory. A huge catalog of products and gift baskets.

One last idea, grow your own seeds. A few sunflowers will give you enough seeds to plant the entire county. There are varieties of sunflowers from a foot high to 35 ft high. We like Buttercrunch lettuce. Leave three plants grow and by fall you'll have enough seed to plant an acre. I have planted my seeds for years. If you've never saved seeds from biennials, let a couple carrots, kale, cabbage in over winter. Next spring in June you'll have seeds by the thousands.

I personally, enjoy flowers. Salomon farm had a you pick zinnias and sunflowers. You could even sell flower arrangements. Only problem with this, you need to close it early, because if people collect the seed heads you'll be out of business.

All of this because of Penny's cherry tomatoes. I know all crops on farms are hybrid seed, but we need to be thinking heirloom seed, where we can grow our own seed. Check out one of the most beautiful catalogs you will ever see at Baker Creek Seeds. Better yet hustle down to Berlin seeds, at Millersburg, Ohio, and my very favorite tourist attraction, Holmes County, Ohio.

A final tip, to get good germination of carrots plant seed on top of the ground then run, they'll be coming up quick.

—James Neuhouser

environment. Avoid transferring deer meat over state lines which may spread CWD. Cook all deer meat to at least 1650F. Prions cannot not be killed by boiling or exposure to acids, radiation, or antibiotics. Wash hands and tools thoroughly with soap and water after handling deer carcass.

It is recommended that CWD infested meat not be eaten. To test for CWD, visit the ODNR animal disease di-

agnostic lab web site. The CWD process for testing involves submitting a sample from a fresh deer head at a cost of \$83 per sample. Follow all directions. Contact the ADDL for testing at 614-728-6220 or email submissions@agri.ohio.gov.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

## 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  
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(Continued from Page 1)

lar Express" and "Grown-Up Christmas List". As always, there is no charge for admis-

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# PAULDING FFA MEMBERS RECEIVE FFA JACKET FROM BLUE JACKET PROGRAM



Pictured here are the Paulding FFA Blue Jacket recipients left to right: Taelynn Parrett, Danielle Borland, Lincoln Manz, Makenna Manz, back row: Elliot Roughton, Kane Garber, Leonel Reyes (not pictured Aleah Matty).

By: Staci Miller, FFA

## Advisor

On November 10th, the Ohio Foundation announced the list of members who will receive a FFA jacket through the Ohio FFA Foundation's Blue Jacket program.

The Paulding FFA had several first-year members apply to receive a jacket by filling out a few essay questions about their future plans in the FFA program.

We are excited to announce that 8 Paulding FFA members were selected to re-

ceive a jacket. Those members were Daniella Borland, Kane Garber, Lincoln Manz, Makenna Manz, Aleah Matty, Taelynn Parrett, Leonel Reyes, and Elliot Roughton. There were over 1,100 students across the state of Ohio who applied for a jacket.

These members were part of the 366 jackets that were donated to first-year Ohio FFA members! Opportunities like this are not possible without the generous support of our local Beck's dealers and donors across the state. These

members were very excited to be selected and are looking forward to wearing their Paulding FFA jacket with pride throughout their high school careers.

Congratulations again to all these members and a special thanks to Paulding County Farm Bureau, Weninger Seed Service Inc. and AgVantage Seed Center for sponsoring our jackets through this program. We are so thankful for the wonderful community support of our FFA Chapter!

(Continued from Page 1)

Eligible projects include public facility improvements such as construction, reconstruction, or rehabilitation of infrastructure, improvements to fire protection facilities, and community centers in

low- and moderate-income areas.

Critical Infrastructure awards include 18 communities, totaling nearly \$7.8 million, to assist with high-priority infrastructure improvements with community-wide impact. Projects

must address infrastructure in critical or poor condition to be considered eligible. Projects announced today include the improvement of flood and drainage facilities, water and sanitary sewer facilities, street reconstruction, and sidewalks.

"These investments build the kind of resilience that allows our communities to thrive," said Lydia Mihalik, director of the Department of Development. "By fixing what's failing and investing in the long-term growth of our neighborhoods today, we're empowering our local partners to prepare their communities for the opportunities of tomorrow."

Sherwood Village Administrator Sherri Ramey had the following to say about the Sherwood Neighborhood Revitalization project: "Investing in our local infrastructure is critical for the well-being and future growth of our town. Aging or inadequate infrastructure especially considering ST RT 127 is a wide load route, can pose a significant safety risk. This grant allows us to proactively address

these issues, rather than waiting for problems to worsen, demonstrating a commitment to the needs and safety of our residents. This project transforms our vision for a more connected and vibrant community into a reality, funded in part by new development or state programs, which means less impact on local property taxes for this specific work. It is a prime example of how external funding can have a lasting, positive impact, ensuring that every resident deserves to feel safe and proud of their neighborhood."

When asked for a comment, Hicksville Village Administrator Cory Wann expressed his gratitude for the funding opportunity that will allow them to get another water main replaced without using local taxpayer funds.

The Ohio Department of Development empowers communities to succeed by investing in Ohio's people, places, and businesses. Learn more about our work at [development.ohio.gov](http://development.ohio.gov).

## WESTERN BUCKEYE ESC MEETING MINUTES

The Western Buckeye Educational Service Center Governing Board regular meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on November 19, 2025 at the WBESC office and approved the following items:

- Motion to accept the Treasurer's report, bills, and expenditures, with corrections, if applicable;
- Motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2025 regular meeting;
- Motion to approve permanent appropriations and revenue by fund for fiscal year 2026.
- Motion to recommend approval of an unpaid leave of absence for a paraprofessional at Lincolnview Local Schools
- Motion to accept the agreement with the Ohio Partnership for Excellence in Paraprofessional Preparation Early Start Partnership Agreement (OPEPP)
- Motion to approve the recommended changes to board policies as recommended by NEOLA.
- Motion to approve the AI OWL - Western Buckeye ESC - SERVICES AGREEMENT Tech Credit Funding to provide AI Educator & Administrator Training at no cost to WBESC.
- Motion to approve the employment of the following, pending proper paperwork and procedures are completed, if applicable:
  - Kristy Boyd, Paraprofessional, 1 Yr. Non-Teaching Limited Contract
- Motion to approve the current Substitute list with changes/additions for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Legislative Report - Superintendent thanked both Jim Hoops & Craig Reidel for attending WBESC Superintendent monthly meetings where they engaged in Q&A sessions over a variety of legislative topics important to our local public school districts.
- Motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss the employment of personnel - following the executive session, a motion to approve a five-year contract to Tricia Taylor to act as CFO of the district effective August 1, 2026 was made and approved
- The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at the WBESC office.

## MANAGING RISK AT DIFFERENT STAGES OF LIFE

As an investor, you will always need to deal with risk of some kind. How can you manage the risk that accompanies the volatility of the financial markets? The answer depends somewhat on where you are in life.

When you're starting out ... If you're early in your career, with perhaps four or five decades until you retire, you can likely afford to invest primarily for growth, which also means you'll be taking on a higher level of risk - because risk and reward are positively correlated. But, given your age, you will have time to overcome the market downturns that are both inevitable and a normal part of investing. Still, even at this stage, being over-aggressive can be costly.

When you're in the "middle stages" ... At this time of your life, you're possibly well along in your career and working on at least a couple of financial goals, such as saving for retirement and your children's college education. You'll want to begin adjusting the balance in your portfolio between assets with higher growth and those with lower growth since there will be progressively less time to rebuild losses. You'll need to decide on the balance between risk and growth that's right for you.

When you're a few years from retirement ... You may have already achieved some key goals - perhaps your children have finished college and you've paid off your mortgage. As a result, you may have more money available to put away for retirement. Growth still matters because your retirement could be 25 or 30 years long, and you'll need investments that can keep up with inflation. But you'll also need investments designed to help provide for your income needs in retirement and provide more stability. Also consider reducing your exposure to higher-risk investments

and instead consider investing more in stable dividend-paying stocks, government and investment-grade bonds, and cash.

When you're retired ... Once you're retired, you might think you should take no risks at all with substantial assets held in cash. However, you could spend two or three decades in retirement, so you may need some growth potential in your portfolio to stay ahead of inflation. A more balanced mix between equities and fixed income is generally appropriate. Establishing a withdrawal rate that's appropriate for your lifestyle and projected longevity can help reduce the risk of outliving your money. Of course, if there's an extended market downturn during any time of your retirement, you may want to temporarily lower your withdrawal rate.

Managing investment risk is a lifelong process that evolves with your goals, responsibilities and time horizon. While you'll look for balance among your investments based on your life stage, having a balanced and diversified portfolio doesn't fully protect against a loss. Still, aligning your strategy with your stage of life can help navigate market volatility and stay on track toward long-term success while avoiding emotional investment decisions. The key is staying informed and making intelligent choices that reflect your current income needs and future aspirations.

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

## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

### OHIO LOCATIONS

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

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

**Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

### INDIANA LOCATIONS

**Fort Wayne:** Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living, Hahn Systems, Walmart

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

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

**Hoagland:** Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

**Milan Center:** Milan Center Feed & Grain

**Monroeville:** All American Marathon, Adams Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General, Phillips 66

**New Haven:** ACPL Library, Clips, Chamber of Commerce, CVS, H&K Chevrolet, Ken's Meat Market, McDonalds, NH Bakery, Paterson Hardware, Richard's

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

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Subscription information for the West Bend News follows: If you would like to have the West Bend News newspaper delivered to your home, subscriptions are \$62.00 per year. The newspapers are available for free at pickup locations throughout Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio.

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# FAIRVIEW HOLDS OFF LATE HICKSVILLE RALLY



Fairview freshman Brianna Moninger scores for the Apaches late in the game to ensure victory. More pictures at [engaging-exposures.com](#)

The Hicksville Aces made a strong late push but came up short in a 62-55 loss to Fairview on December 4 in non-conference boys basketball action. Fairview jumped out to a 21-15 lead after the first quarter and carried a 34-23 advantage into halftime. Hicksville battled back with a big fourth quarter, outscoring the Apaches 19-14, but Fairview held on to secure the win. The final score by quarter

was Fairview 21-13-14-14—62 and Hicksville 15-8-13-19—55.

## FOOTBALL PLAYOFFS SEMI FINALS

The high school football state semi finals were full of surprises. In Division 1 both state finalists dominated their opponents to advance in the championship game. St. Xavier defeated Middletown



Sophomore Jocelyn Baldwin scores 2 points on this layup, igniting the Aces redemption plan to get within 2 of the Apaches! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](#)

21-6 and Olentangy Orange shocked St. Edward 28-0. St. X and Orange might be the best matchup in all seven divisions this week.

After Walsh Jesuit knocked off Archbishop Hoban last week and looked like they were in the driver's seat to win Division 2. No one told that to Avon, a football power. Walsh Jesuit didn't have an answer for Avon's ground and air assault and Avon advanced to the finals with a 38-7 win. In the bottom part of the bracket

#1 Cincinnati Anderson won a slugfest over Big Walnut 29-22.

Our Division 3 team, the Fighting Irish of Toledo Central Catholic, had their hands full and had an amazing comeback to win 21-20 over Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy.

Undefeated Tippecanoe was no match for Columbus Bishop Watterson. The Eagles took Tippecanoe to the woodshed 41-9. For the 3rd straight year it will be Toledo Central Catholic vs

Columbus Bishop Watterson. Before the game, on paper it looked like Glenville would roll past Indian Valley. Glenville only had a 12-0 lead going into the half. In the 3rd quarter the Braves scored twice, and we had a new game. Glenville was able to hang on and get the 26-21 win. Shelby's offence and defense put on a football clinic defeating Indian Hill 42-7 and were able to rest their starters the entire 4th quarter. In Division 4, Glenville will have their hands full trying to contain the explosive Whippets.

Can anyone stop the Liberty Center Tigers in Division 5. They made their 42-10 win over a solid Indian Lake team look easy. In the top of the bracket, Wheelersburg knocked off Cardinal Mooney 24-10. I hope Liberty Center and Wheelersburg will be a good game and not a blowout.

The Division 6 state championship could also be a good game. Kirtland advanced to the championship with a 49-22 win over Col Crawford and Hopewell-Loudon slipped past last years state champion, Coldwater 20-18. Kirtland finished runner-up for the sixth time last year. The Hornets have played 13 state championship games in the last 14 years and are 7-6 in those games and are the favorites to win it all this year.

Hillsdale advanced to the Division 7 championship game by beating McDonald 41-14. Hillsdale made it this far last year and then ran into a brick wall, Marion Local and lost to the Flyers 74-0. This week Hillsdale will play St. Henry for the state championship. Two weeks ago, St. Henry knocked off Marion Local and last week had a

close 13-10 victory over Columbus Grove in the semi-finals. Will Hillsdale finally be able to defeat a school out of the MAC? Ron Burt (Ohio Sports Blitz)

## ANTWERP GIRLS FALL TO STRYKER ON THE ROAD

The Antwerp Lady Archers traveled to Stryker on Tuesday night, where the Panthers' steady scoring effort handed Antwerp a 45-20 loss. Stryker jumped ahead early with an 11-3 first-quarter lead and carried that momentum into halftime, up 29-11. Antwerp struggled to find offensive rhythm in the third quarter, managing just two points before finishing with a 7-point fourth.

Briley Bagley led the Lady Archers with 11 points, including three three-pointers. Clara Rohrs added 3 points, while Aliyah Friend scored 4 and Eliana Hormann chipped in 2.

Stryker was powered by Aubrey Cummins, who delivered a game-high 23 points with five threes. Grace Froelich followed with 8 points, while Reiss Creighton added 6 and Khloe Goebel scored 4.

## ANTWERP OPENS SEASON WITH 60-42 ROAD WIN AT HOLGATE

The Antwerp Archers kicked off their 2025-26 boys basketball season in strong fashion, earning a 60-42 victory on the road at Holgate on November 28. Antwerp set the tone early with a 15-11 first-quarter lead and continued to build separation throughout the night, outscoring the Tigers in every period except

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## WOODLAN WARRIORS SECURE WIN OVER GARRETT RAILROADERS



The Warriors started strong with this layup by Keaton Delagrance and continued their dominance throughout the game. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

The Woodlan Warriors defended their home court on Tuesday, December 2, earning a strong 55-47 victory over the Garrett Railroaders in a well-balanced team performance. Woodlan controlled key stretches of the game and used a productive offensive night to pull away in the second half.

The Warriors opened with a 17-8 lead after the first quarter, setting the tone early with crisp ball movement and confident scoring. Garrett battled back in the second quarter, but Woodlan maintained a 23-20 advantage at halftime. Woodlan's consistency continued after the break, outscoring the Railroaders 32-27 in the second half to lock in the win. Brooks led the Warriors

with 14 points, knocking down three 3-pointers, 1 field goal and adding three free throws. Delagrance also delivered a strong outing with 13 points, including a of 3-pointer. Bullock held his with 10 points of his own, while Peters contributed 8 and Smith added 5. Klepper scored 4, and Jacquay chipped in 1 point to round out the scoring.

Garrett was paced by Coffman, who scored 15 points and went 6-for-8 from the free-throw line. O'Neal added 11 points, Hedges and King scored 8 each, and Reed chipped in 1.

Score by the Quarter:  
Garrett - 8 12 15 12 = 47  
Woodlan - 17 6 20 12 = 55

the fourth. By halftime, the Archers held a 21-20 advantage before erupting for 36 second-half points to pull away for the double-digit win.

Antwerp displayed balanced scoring and steady defensive pressure, limiting Holgate to 35% shooting while finishing with an efficient 50% from the floor. The Archers also won the rebounding battle 23-22 and forced 12 Holgate turnovers while committing 11 of their own.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp's offensive effort with 26 points, scoring effectively in transition and around the rim. Weston Rhonehouse followed with 12 points, while Hampton Rogge added 6 in a well-rounded team performance. Brayden Fuller contributed 5 points, while Michael Rohrs and Lincoln Lucas each scored 4, and Noah

Lucas chipped in 3. Antwerp's defensive rotation was active throughout, generating turnovers and limiting second-chance opportunities.

Holgate was paced by Matthew Healy's 13 points, with additional support from Wyatt Meyer, who contributed with 10, followed by Boecker's 7, Hartman's and Distel's 5 each, and Upright and Medina rounded out the Tiger scoreboard with 1 each.

### WAYNE TRACE GIRLS OPEN SEASON 3-0 WITH WINS OVER DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S AND BRYAN

The Wayne Trace Lady Raiders continued their strong start to the 2025-26 basketball season by securing back-to-back victories—first at home over Delphos St. John's on November 29, followed by a road

win at Bryan on December 2. Wayne Trace now stands at 3-0 after a pair of convincing performances.

The Lady Raiders controlled the game from the opening tip on November 29th, racing out to an 11-2 lead in the first quarter before stretching the advantage to 28-15 by halftime. Wayne Trace's defense tightened further in the second half, holding the Blue Jays to just 14 total points over the final two periods on their way to a 60-29 victory.

Lexi Moore powered the Raiders with a standout performance, scoring 17 points while adding 7 rebounds, 3 steals, and 3 assists. Amber Stoller followed with 13 points and 4 rebounds. Careen Winans filled the stat sheet with 10 points, 4 assists, and 4 steals, while sister Caroline Winans added 5 points, 4 rebounds, and 5 steals. Kinlee Miller contributed 6 points, and Caitlin Mead added 2.

Wayne Trace's defensive pressure was relentless, forcing 12 steals and out-rebounding Delphos St. John's 25-21. The Raiders also shot efficiently, finishing 14-of-20 at the free-throw line.

Delphos St. John's was led by Megan Kerner's 9 points and Maris Baldauf's 9 off the bench.

The Lady Raiders traveled to Bryan on December 2nd and earned a hard-fought 46-37 win behind a strong first quarter and a dominant defensive showing in the middle periods. Wayne Trace jumped ahead 16-17 after one, then limited Bryan to just four points in the second quarter and six in the third to gain separation.

Caroline Winans delivered a commanding all-around performance, scoring 18 points while pulling down 7 rebounds and grabbing 6 steals. Lexi Moore added 16 points on efficient shooting, while Careen Winans contributed 6 points, 3 assists, and 3 steals. Amber Stoller added 6 points and 3 rebounds, and Caitlin Mead chipped in 4.

Defensively, Wayne Trace controlled the boards 25-12 and forced 9 steals while holding Bryan to 37 points.

Bryan was led by Piper Hanna's 11 points and AveryAnn Fisher's 9.

### VWCT TO SUPPORT THE SALVATION ARMY

The next Van Wert Civic Theatre show, One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall, tells eight heartwarming holiday stories set entirely inside a bustling shopping mall. To heighten the realism and festive atmosphere, Van Wert Civic Theatre is collaborating with The Salvation Army. Before the show, a Salvation Army volunteer with the iconic red kettle will be stationed in the lobby, just as you would find in any mall during the holidays. Every dollar donated will directly support The Salvation Army's local Christmas programs.

One Christmas Eve at Evergreen Mall runs December 4-6 and 7-13 at 7:30 p.m., with matinee performances on December 7 and 14 at 2:00 p.m. Join us for eight heartwarming holiday stories—moments that could easily be happening in malls everywhere this time of year.

For information visit [vwct.org](http://vwct.org) or call 419-238-9689.

## CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON AT AN OHIO STATE PARK LODGE



COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) invites you to unwrap the magic of the holiday season at an Ohio State Park lodge, where cherished traditions and new holiday experiences come together. From cozy fireside retreats and breakfast with Santa to holiday buffets and themed murder mystery dinners, the lodges are ready to help you create unforgettable memories this winter.

### Burr Oak Lodge Lodge and Conference Center:

- Holiday Family Movie Night and Dinner Specials – December 6, 13, & 20, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- Christmas Morning All You Can Eat Pancakes – December 25, 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

### Deer Creek Lodge & Conference Center:

- Breakfast with Santa – Sunday, December 14
- Christmas Day Brunch – Thursday, December 25

### The Lodge at Geneva:

- 7th Annual Light Up the Lodge Weekend – Friday,

December 5 through Sunday, December 7

- Christmas Eve Dinner – Wednesday, December 24, 4:00-8:00 p.m.

### Hueston Woods Lodge & Conference Center:

- Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 13, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Hometown Holidays – Saturday, December 13, All day activities throughout the park

- Christmas Eve Specials – Wednesday, December 24, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

- Christmas Day Buffet – Thursday, December 25, Noon to 4:00 p.m.

### Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center:

- Santa Claus at the Lodge – Saturday December 13, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### Maumee Bay Lodge & Conference Center:

- Cookies with Santa – Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13, 4:00-7:00 p.m.

- Winter Carnival – Friday, December 26 through Monday, December 29, Daily 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

& 3:00-7:00 p.m.

- New Year's Eve Party – Wednesday, December 31, 8:30 p.m.

### Mohican Lodge & Conference Center:

- Breakfast with Santa – December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, & 21, 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### Punderson Manor Lodge & Conference Center:

- Cocoa and Cookies with Santa – Saturday, December 6, 6:30 p.m.

- Breakfast with Santa – Sunday, December 7, 14, 21, 8:00 a.m. – Noon

- The Grinch Guzzles Hour – Wednesday, December 17, 4:30 p.m.

### Salt Fork Lodge & Conference Center:

- Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 6, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

- North Pole Outpost – December 6, 13, & 20, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

- Murder Mystery Dinner – Saturday, December 6, 6:00 p.m.

- Christmas Open House & Buffet – Sunday, December 21, Noon to 6:00 p.m.

### Shawnee Lodge & Conference Center:

- Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 6, 8:00-11:00 a.m.

- Holiday Open House & Buffet – Sunday, December 7, Buffet 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

- New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner – Wednesday, December 31, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Don't miss the chance to make this holiday season unforgettable. Visit the ODNR events calendar (<https://ohiodnr.gov/events>) for a full list of activities and reserve your overnight stay today.

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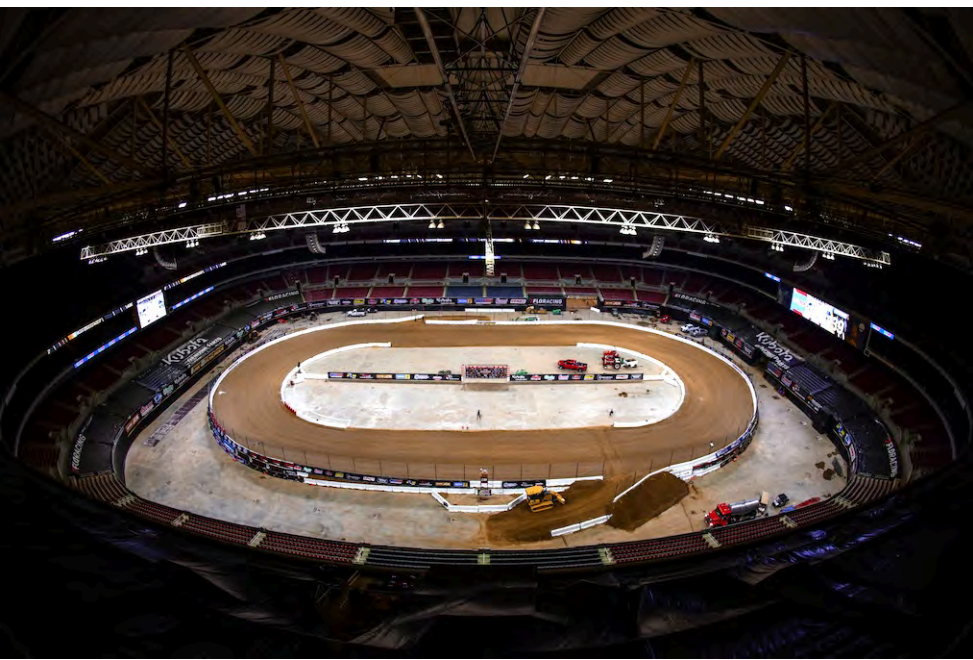
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# THE LEFT TURN



Gateway Dirt Nationals St Louis former home of the Rams. Photo Credit Gateway Dirt Nationals.



The Midgets will be in action December 19th and 20th at the Rumble in Fort Wayne. Photo Credit The Rumble.

By: Ron Burt

This week drivers, crews, sponsors and fans are headed to the Gateway Dirt Nationals at the Gateway Dome (former home of the NFL Rams) in St. Louis. Fans that don't plain in advance find it's one of the hardest tickets to get in racing. The best drivers and cars make the trip to St. Louis from all over the country. The stars from the Lucas Oil Dirt Series and other National series go head to head with local track and regional series champions and anyone else that thinks he or she has a chance to win. UMP Dirt Modifieds have been a part of Gateway Nationals since the beginning.

The first Gateway Dirt Nationals was in 2016 and has run every year except for 2020 when the entire country was shut down. The late great Scott Bloomquist won the first Super Late Model feature. Other drivers to take the checkered flag include double winners Bobby Pierce, Tyler Carpenter, and last year's winner Brandon Sheppard. Besides Bloomquist, Tyler ERP had one win. Notable UMP Modified winners of the event Trevor Neville, Drake Troutman and Ricky Thornton Jr. In 2019 they added Midgets as a 3rd class for two years and

Kyle Larson had the first win and the last year for Midgets was 2021 and that feature was won by Jonathan Beason. Many people in the racing community take off week, take the kids out of school and make this weekend an annual vacation.

The Great Lakes Super Sprints had two big announcements this week. Owner of the series Barry Marlow presented the drivers with end of the season awards and bonus money for points earned. The top 3 divers for 2025 and money earned by each were announced series champion Jared Horstman \$42K, Max Stambaugh \$41K and Dustin Daggett \$39K. It sounds like a lot until you figure how much money was put into the cars, fuel and travel expense. This is why having sponsors is so important at every level of racing to help with offset costs.

Officials with the Great Lakes Super Sprints announced the calendar that features 33 confirmed shows from April through Labor Day weekend, with special events sanctioned by GLSS after the Championship weekend. In addition to the standard, \$2,500 to win and \$400 to start, multiple \$5,000 to win shows are on the horizon

as well.

The GLSS 360 Sprints will visit 19 different tracks, 4 states, a trip to Canada, and multiple increased purse shows highlight the 2026 schedule! The series opens at I-75 Raceway April 10th in Tennessee and ends September 25 at Eldora. A couple of new tracks for the series will be on May 16th at Shadyhill on the Indiana/Illinois state line and the newly redone half mile Mansfield Speedway. They will make 6 stops at Lima, 4 up north at I-96 Speedway, Montpelier and Millstream will each get a race this year. For more information visit their Facebook page. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!



## ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS

On November 20th, Antwerp officers assisted Antwerp EMS with a call at the Pop and Brew gas station. Later that day, the police department received a court order from the Court of Common Pleas regarding two properties located within the village, and the information was documented. Also on November 20th, a resident of East River Street requested assistance with a vehicle unlock, and the officer responded and unlocked the vehicle. That same day, Job and Family Services reported a possible case of child sexual abuse. Antwerp Police and JFS are jointly investigating the incident.

On November 21st, a resident of Buffalo Street reported that she had been assaulted by her ex-boyfriend approximately a week earlier. A report was prepared and forwarded to the prosecutor's office. Later the same day, the same resident reported that her ex-boyfriend—despite a no-contact order—was at her residence banging on her windows and doors. The officer responded, investigated, later located the suspect, and forwarded all information to the prosecutor and the court.

On November 23rd, a Buffalo Street resident reported receiving suspicious messages on Facebook Messenger from someone she believed to be her ex-boyfriend. The report was forwarded to the prosecutor. Also on November 23rd, a resident of West Washington Street reported vandalism after eggs were thrown at the home. The officer responded and is continuing the investigation.

On November 24th, an officer assisted the Antwerp School Resource Officer in locating a parent who had failed to pick up their child at the bus stop.

On November 25th, a resident of Frank Leinard Mobile Home Park reported receiving unwanted calls and text messages from a former boyfriend. The officer investigated, prepared a report, and sent the matter to the prosecutor. Also on November 25th, a resident of Buffalo Street reported being stalked and followed by a former boyfriend. That report was also investigated and forwarded a report to the prosecutor.

On November 27th, the police department received a request for a welfare check on a resident of North Main Street. The officer responded and confirmed that everything was okay. Later that day, an officer assisted EMS at a residence on East Canal Street.

On November 28th, a resident of Frank Leinard Parkway reported hearing a loud boom near the river. The officer checked the area but found nothing suspicious. A Main Street resident also requested a vehicle unlock, and the officer responded and gained entry.

On November 29th, an officer located a vehicle broken down and parked in the 100 block of East Canal Street. The driver stated that a tow truck was already on the way. Later that day, a welfare check was requested for an individual at 101½ South Main Street. The officer checked on the resident, who was found to be okay. Also on November 29th, the Antwerp Police Department responded to an alarm at the Antwerp Exchange Bank, which was accidentally set off.

On December 1st, a resident of Woodland Drive reported that a younger male—appearing to be a juvenile—knocked on her door and said "hello." The resident did not answer and later reported the incident to the police department and posted about it on Facebook. Officers located the juvenile and learned he had slid off the roadway into the snow and became stuck. Seeing a truck in the driveway, he approached the home seeking help. No criminal activity occurred. Later on December 1st, an officer stopped a vehicle on River Street near Wentworth after observing it traveling 76 miles per hour in a posted zone past ZenLeaf. The driver was cited for reckless operation and driving under suspension.

*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 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CELEBRATES 25<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BANQUET



The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Board of Directors and office staff hosted its 25th Annual Banquet recently at Grant's Catering. With over 180 guests in attendance, the evening was filled with great connections, community pride, and a shared vision for Paulding County's future.

Special guest speakers included: Chase Eikenbary, Vice President of Project Management at RGP; Paulding County and regional building and business owner Bryan Keller, Estee Blair of Maumee Valley Planning. Their insights underscored the importance of collaboration and investment in strengthening local communities and the county overall.

Adding to guest speakers, Wayne Trace Local School students Kenzie and Eli Johnson spoke about their school's STEAM program, showcasing the innovation and talent being

ing fostered among the next generation of learners and workforce.

The final event of the evening was the presentation of the Paulding County Mayor of the Year award. This year the award went to Haviland Village Mayor Ed Ruger. Ed was awarded based on all the work that has been accomplished in the village without the guidance of a village administrator or Board of Public Affairs.

The evening was made even more memorable thanks to the beautiful music provided by the Stringato Quartet and the outstanding food and atmosphere created at Grant's Catering & Wedding Venue.

PCED extends its sincere thank you to all who attended and supported this event. Together, we continue to build momentum and ensure Paulding County remains viable by being #pauldingcountystrong.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic disposition Report

Sara N. Slane of Antwerp, Ohio, was found guilty of disorderly conduct and fined \$50 plus \$173 in court costs. She was ordered to maintain general good behavior and pay all fines and costs. A sep-

arate count of disorderly conduct was dismissed per the State.

Chelsea N. Jones of Grover Hill, Ohio, was found guilty of failure to control and of a seat belt violation. Both charges were waived by the defendant.

Ramon A. Culver of Daytona Beach, Florida, was found guilty of failing to

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# AGCREDIT AWARDS \$135,900 IN MISSION FUND GRANTS TO 10 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



Van Wert County Ag Society receives their 2025 Mission Fund grant from AgCredit.

AgCredit, one of northern Ohio's largest lenders for farmers, rural homeowners and agribusiness, has awarded \$135,900 in Mission Fund grants to 14 community organizations in support of their efforts to improve the quality of life in communities primarily within the cooperative's 18-county service territory.

Now in its eighth year, the Mission Fund supports AgCredit's commitment to investing in the future of agriculture and positively impacting the quality of life in rural Ohio. Recipients were selected based on their proposals to meet criteria in one

or more of four key areas: Education, environment, technology and quality of rural life.

Following are AgCredit's 2025 Mission Fund grant recipients:

- Bellevue Fire Department, Huron County, \$10,000
- Central Lorain County Joint Ambulance District, Lorain County, \$10,000
- Fort Jennings Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County, \$8,000
- Lucas County Ag Society, Lucas County, \$15,000
- Ottawa Volunteer Fire Department, Putnam County, \$2,026.76

- Paulding FFA, Paulding County, \$12,600
- Payne Fire Association, Paulding County, \$7,500
- Pemberville Freedom Fire Department, Wood County, \$5,000
- Portage Fire District Firefighters Association, Ottawa County, \$6,000
- Putnam County Rabbit Poultry Committee, Putnam County, \$14,850
- Van Wert County Ag Society, Van Wert County, \$15,000
- Vermillion FFA, Erie County, \$7,500
- Western Reserve Ag Ed Department, Huron County,

\$7,500

- Wyandot County Ag Society, Wyandot County, \$15,000

"As part of our commitment to supporting the agricultural community, we are proud to announce this year's recipients," said AgCredit President and CEO Brian Ricker.

Organizations may apply for Mission Fund grants of up to \$15,000 per year. The 2026 application process will begin in March, and funds will be distributed by December 31. For more information about the lending cooperative or the Mission Fund, visit AgCredit.net.

## NW OHIO LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION SAVES LIVES 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LIGHTS FOR LIVES

The twelve annual "Lights for Lives" was a successful operation once again, showing what can be accomplished by law enforcement working cooperatively in a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional effort. In the spirit of collaboration, the Ohio State Highway Patrol, Findlay District in conjunction with law enforcement agencies in Northwest Ohio from the following counties: Williams, Fulton, Lucas, Defiance, Henry, Wood, Putnam, Paulding, Hancock, Van Wert, Allen, and Hardin Counties participated.

"Lights for Lives" is a multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional, cooperative enforcement campaign ocused on officers activating their overhead LIGHTS and stopping as many vehicles that have committed traffic violations to save as many LIVES as possible. It began on November 24th at 6:00 a.m. and ran through November 26th at 6:00 a.m., kicking off the holiday driving season.

During the 48-hour operation officers reported stopping nearly 692 vehicles and issued 230 citations. There were 18 Safety Belt citations issued, 13 Distracted Driving citations issued, while 7 impaired drivers were removed from Ohio's roadways.

On behalf of all law enforcement who participated in "Lights for Lives", we would like to remind motorists this holiday season to always buckle up, as it is the one thing most likely to save their life, and slow down or move over for stopped traffic! Additionally, they must remember to plan ahead and never operate a vehicle when impaired by drugs and/or alcohol!

yield to an emergency vehicle. His case was waived by the defendant.

Christopher Galloway of

### NOTICE VILLAGE OF PAYNE

Change of Meeting Dates

The original meeting dates on December 8th and December 22nd both at 7:00 PM for Village of Payne Council are **CANCELED**.

Next Village of Payne Council meeting will on **December 29th, 2025 at 6:00 PM** at the Village Hall.

### NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

MARY E. LEINARD :  
11788 FOREST MERE DRIVE  
BONITA SPRINGS, FL 34135,  
Plaintiff,  
vs.  
UNKNOWN HEIRS, LEGATEES, DEVISEES, EXECUTORS, ADMINISTRATORS, SUCCESSORS  
AND ASSIGNS OF EMMA J. ANSPAUGH AKA EMMA J. ANSPACH, DEFENDANT,

Case No. CI-25-190

Please take notice that a complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action against you seeking to quiet the title of the following described property:

Situated in the Southwest Quarter of Section 27, Town 1 North, Range 1 East, Village of Antwerp, Paulding County, Ohio, being part of Lot 3 of Block "A" as described in deed recorded in Official Record Volume 523, Page 2497 and being more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the intersection of the east line of Main Street with the south line of Daggett Street; thence along the east line of Main Street, S. 18°35'07" E., a distance of 154.00 feet to a 5/8" iron pin set, being the Principal Point of Beginning; - thence along the south line of a tract described in Deed Volume 255, Page 444, N. 72°14'25" E., a distance of 83.84 feet to a 1" iron pipe found; thence along the south line of a tract as described in Official Record Volume 572 Page 2040, N. 72°00'53" E., a distance of 75.38 feet to a point; thence on the westerly line of a tract as described in Official Record Volume 574, Page 829, S 19°07'41" E., a distance of 46.10 feet to a 5/8" iron pin found, passing a 5/8" iron pin found at 1.50 feet; thence on the south line of Lot 3, S. 72°10'04" W., a distance of 59.66 feet to a 5/8" iron pin set at the southeast corner of

Scott, Ohio, was found guilty of reckless operation. He was fined and sentenced to five days in jail, with all five days suspended.

Marcia J. Bombyk of Ann Arbor, Michigan, was found guilty of failing to yield to an emergency vehicle. Her case was waived by the defendant.

Maxwell R. Fohner of Oakwood, Ohio, was found guilty of a stop sign violation. His case was waived by the defendant

Tracy Lynn Hoepfner of Paulding was found guilty of

driving under suspension and was fined \$97, with an additional \$100 in court costs.

Dorothy J. Worley of Paulding pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation and was fined \$35 with an additional \$30 in court costs.

Amy S. Heller of Defiance was also cited for a seat belt violation, resulting in a \$57 total fine and court cost.

David R. Brown of Paulding faced the same seat belt charge and was assessed the same \$57 penalty.

Gavin I. Williams, also of Paulding, was fined \$57 for not wearing a seat belt while driving.

Loria K. Eddington of Defiance received the same \$57 seat belt penalty.

Kathy D. Smith of Antwerp, Ohio, was found guilty of driving while texting. She was fined \$95 plus court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Randall A. Christo of Payne, Ohio, was found guilty of domestic violence. He was fined \$230, sentenced to 180 days in jail with 79 days suspended, and placed on standard probation. He is required to have no contact with the victim, complete an evaluation, attend an online class, undergo a risk assessment, and report to the jail to receive the rules and conditions of his probation.

Oscar A. Bryant of Redford, Michigan, was found guilty of a general traffic violation under Section 4511.21A. He was fined \$95 plus \$70 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant

Joel C. Johnson of Paulding was found guilty of failure to control a vehicle. The case was waived by the defendant, and he was fined \$95 with an additional \$70 in court costs. There was no jail time or license suspension associated with the case

2025 NOV -3 PH 2:57

Lot 2; thence running along Lot 2 on the following two (2) courses and distances:

1. N. 18035°07" W., a distance of 21.87 feet to a 5/8" iron pin set;
2. S. 72°14'25" W., a distance of 100.00 feet to a 5/8" iron pin set in the east line of Main Street;

Thence along the east line of Main Street, N. 18°35'07" W., a distance of 24.00 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Containing 0.118 acre, more or less, and being subject to all legal highways, rights-of-way, easements, restrictions, covenants, or conditions of record. The above description and bearing system is based on a survey prepared by Michael L. Howbert, Registered Professional Surveyor No. 7959, in October of 2023, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Auditor's Parcel #12-02S-022-00 (0.087 acres recorded - 0.118 acres per survey)

Property address: 314 S. Main Street, Antwerp, Ohio

You are required to answer the complaint within 28 days after the publication of this Notice, which will be published once a week for six (6) consecutive weeks. The date of the last publication will be December 15, 2025, and the 28 days for answer will commence on that date.

Sarah Jo Harpel, Clerk  
Common Pleas Court of Paulding County, Ohio

Glenn H. Troth, Esq. (#0008420)  
Troth Law Office, LLC  
125 N. Water Street, P.O. Box 84  
Paulding, OH 45879  
(419) 399-2224  
Attorney for Plaintiffs

### WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle

#### RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER

**Across**

1. The name of one of Rudolph's mentors in the reindeer community.
2. The department store where Rudolph was first introduced in a booklet in 1939.
3. Rudolph resides in Santa's village HERE.
4. Hermey doesn't want to go to this because he wants to fix dolls teeth instead.
5. The name of Rudolph's love interest and friend in the story.
6. Rudolph guides Santa's sleigh on THIS around the world.
7. Rudolph is excluded from these initially due to his red nose.
8. Rudolph's distinguishing physical characteristic.
9. Voiced the snowman narrator, Sam the Snowman, in the TV special.
10. Rudolph is initially considered THIS due to his glowing red nose.
11. Rudolph is chosen to lead WHOSE sleigh on Christmas Eve.
12. Rudolph becomes the leader of Santa's THIS.
13. A misfit elf who wants to become a dentist, Rudolph's friend.
14. The creator and author of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.
15. One of the other reindeer on Santa's team.
16. Rudolph's bright nose guides Santa's sleigh in what kind of Christmas night.
17. Rudolph is initially considered THIS due to his glowing red nose.
18. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" became a famous Christmas WHAT.
19. A song Rudolph sings in the TV special.

**Down**

1. The night when Rudolph helps save Christmas.

*solution on page 11*

**THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**

### PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

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Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813  
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873  
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

### HICKSVILLE VILLAGE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE

**ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE OF HICKSVILLE VILLAGE**

An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Hicksville, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025

**Section 1. BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Village of Hicksville, State of Ohio, That to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures of the said Village of Hicksville during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, the following sums be and they are hereby set aside and appropriated as follows, viz:

**Section 2.** That there be appropriated from the GENERAL FUND for

contingencies for the purposes not otherwise provided for, to be expended in accordance with the provisions of Section 7505.40 R.C. the sum of:	\$3,001,211.24
General Fund	\$3,001,211.24
Special Revenue Funds	\$2,237,716.21
Capital Projects Funds	\$3,152,523.90
Enterprise Funds	\$5,610,412.00
Agency Funds	\$2,346.29
	<b>\$14,004,209.64</b>

Document may be seen in its entirety at the office of the Fiscal Officer at 111 South Main Street, Hicksville Ohio 43526.

DATED: 12/01/25  
CHERYL SMITH,  
FISCAL OFFICER

### HICKSVILLE VILLAGE ORDINANCE 2025-16

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PAY RANGES FOR VILLAGE EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, the Council of the Village of Hicksville, Ohio, desires to establish pay ranges for its Village employees, to be effective January 1, 2026.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the Village of Hicksville, Ohio,

**SECTION 1:** Effective January 1, 2026, the following named positions shall be paid at the following rates of pay:

Position	Rate
Police Chief	\$73,766.39 per year
Police Lieutenant	\$28.68 per hour
Police Sergeant	\$27.28 per hour
Patrolman I	\$26.64 per hour
Patrolman II	\$23.95 per hour
Part-time Patrolman	\$23.95 per hour
Police/Mayors Court Clerk	\$22.25 per hour
K-9 Handler	\$1,700.00 per year
In addition to hourly on duty pay; Paid on the final payday of the year contracted	
Water Superintendent	\$24.62 per hour
WWTP Foreman	\$77,539.64 per year
WWTP Superintendent	\$24.62 per hour
Street Foreman	\$24.62 per hour
Grade I Laborer	\$23.27 per hour
Grade II Laborer	\$21.83 per hour
Grade III Laborer	\$20.58 per hour
Grade IV Laborer	\$16.52 per hour
Part-time Laborer	\$14.86 per hour
Part-time Custodian	\$14.86 per hour
Part-time Beautification Coordinator	\$14.86 per hour
Part-Time Zoning Inspector	\$19.14 per hour
Full-time Zoning Inspector	\$22.25 per hour
Utility Clerk	\$18.42 per hour
Senior Utility Clerk	\$22.25 per hour
Income Tax Administrator	\$18.42 per hour

Senior Income Tax Administrator \$22.25 per hour

Part-Time Fire Chief \$11,124.00 per year

Full-Time EMS Chief \$57,844.80 per year

Fireman \$15.79 per hour

EMR \$18.22 per hour

EMT-Basic \$20.64 per hour

EMT-Advanced \$21.86 per hour

EMT-Paramedic \$23.07 per hour

(Note: On Call pay for EMT's and Firefighter Drivers is \$1.00 per hour)

Full-time Park Director \$48,396.82 per year

Seasonal Park Groundskeeper \$20.58 per hour

Seasonal Park Laborers \$15.45 per hour

Head Lifeguard \$15.57 per hour

Lifeguard \$13.35 per hour

Pool Desk Clerk \$11.12 per hour

Assistant Fiscal Officer \$22.25 per hour

Assistant Administrator \$22.25 per hour

Assistant Clerk \$17.91 per hour

HIX TV Station Manager \$1,079.57/mo Plus 50% of Underwriting fees

HIXTV Youth Director \$330.11 per month

**SECTION 2:** Effective January 1, 2026, the following elected and appointed officials shall be paid the stated amounts:

Position	Rate
(1) Administrator	\$73,882.54 per year
(2) Fiscal Officer	\$58,848.02 per year
(2) Mayor	\$16,366.29 per year - presides over Mayor's Court
(3) Council Members	\$10,741.83 per year - no Mayor's Court \$5402.74 per year

**SECTION 3:** This Ordinance is declared to be an emergency measure for the peace, health, welfare and safety of the Village of Hicksville, Ohio and for the further purpose that this Ordinance is necessary to meet the required time deadlines involved and the economic needs of the Village and shall, therefore, take effect and be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval by the mayor.

DATED: 12/01/25  
MICHAEL BARTH, MAYOR  
CHERYL SMITH, FISCAL OFFICER



## VAN WERT PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS IAFF LOCAL 681 DONATES TO TRI-COUNTY ADAMHS BOARD TO SUPPORT FIRST RESPONDER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES



The Van Wert Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 681 announced today a monetary donation of \$22,000 to the Tri County Alcohol, Drug Addiction & Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board to support and enhance mental health resources for first responders across the region.

The donation was made possible from ticket sales and donations to the program at LifeHouse Church featuring Travis Howze on November 1, 2025, and reflects Local 681's ongoing commitment to ensuring firefighters and other first responders have access to the mental health support they need. Firefighters routinely face high-stress, traumatic, and life-threatening situations, making access to timely and specialized mental health services critical. Both organizations share a commitment to promoting mental wellness, reducing stigma, and ensuring first responders feel supported both on and off the job.

The contribution from the Van Wert Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 681 will help the Tri-County ADAMHS Board continue providing essential programs such as counseling and access

to licensed mental health professionals who understand the unique challenges of emergency service work. In 2023 The Tri County ADAMHS Board in partnership with Van Wert County Sheriff, Van Wert City Police, and Van Wert Fire Department began collaborating in addressing the mental health and wellness needs of First Responders in the Van Wert community through the Officer Wellness Pilot Project. This groundbreaking program created a partnership with local counseling practice, department leadership and the Tri County ADAMHS Board. The premise of the project is that many stress related conditions that may manifest into mental health or substance use disorder can be prevented if addressed early. To achieve this goal of early identification, Van Wert County Sheriff, Van Wert City Police, and Van Wert Fire Department staff participate in annual or bi-annual Wellness assessments with a licensed behavioral health counselor. These wellness visits are much like annual wellness visits to screen for and address physical health conditions. As part of the project design, counsel-

ing staff participated in cultural competency training in working with First Responders to better understand the unique challenges faced by the First Responder community. All Officer Wellness participants are also offered optional outpatient counseling, should further support or assistance be needed. The Board initially funded this project through a grant. The project continues to expand with the addition of departments in Mercer, Van Wert, and Paulding Counties.

The Board would like to recognize Sheriff Rigenbach, Chief Weigle, and Chief Jones for their commitment to their staff's wellbeing through the Officer Wellness Project. The Board would also like to thank the Van Wert Professional Firefighters IAFF Local 681 for their commitment to reducing mental health stigma by bringing awareness through presenters like Travis Howze. The Tri County ADAMHS Board serves Mercer, Van Wert, and Paulding Counties. For more information about the Officer Wellness Project, contact the Board at [info@tri-countyadamhs.org](mailto:info@tri-countyadamhs.org).

have a lot of iron but unfortunately, without adequate or high levels of SOM, the iron is either not in the right form for the plants or is tied up by other nutrients. Iron is crucial because it activates the enzyme that makes chlorophyll. Cold wet spring conditions results in yellow corn. This can be a combination of N, S, and Fe deficiency. Iron (Fe) is critical for soil N transformations, so a lack of any one of these nutrients causes poor growing crops due to low chlorophyll production and poor protein (N & S) production.

Other micronutrients that are important include zinc (Zn), manganese (Mn), and copper (Cu). Zinc (Zn) is a great disease reducing nutrient. Bacteria, fungus, and viruses can not tolerate good to high levels of Zn. Most diseases are associated with a deficiency of at least one or more major, secondary or micro nutrients. Zn activates genes (DNA, RNA), helps plants survive drought and high temperatures, and also helps plants survive water logged soils.

Manganese (Mn) activates 36 enzymes but its key role is splitting the water molecule. Why is important? Water (H2O) when split becomes (H+, OH-) which are the building blocks for making plant proteins. Mn increases P and Ca soil availability and helps decrease most bacteria and fungal diseases. Mn is often low in sandy soils and soybeans often respond to foliar Mn applications. However, never apply Mn with glyphosate (Roundup) because they tie each other up. Unfortunately, for best results, these should be separate applications.

Copper (Cu) is the central element in making cellulose and lignin so adequate Cu helps fight thin stalks and lodging. Only about 5% of the Cu in SOM is plant available so it takes several years for it break down. High pH soils tie up Cu while low pH soils make Cu more available.

Finally, three micronutrients we often forget: chlorine (Cl)-cobalt (Co)-silica (Si). Chlorine is available in most fertilizers especially with potassium (K). Both K, Cl, and nitrates promote the growth hormone called auxin. Cl may be deficient on sandy soils. Cobalt (Co) is important for N fixation especially in soybeans. Silica (Si) strengthens cell walls and the plant's vascular system creating bigger pipes in the plant for increased nutrient flow. Keeping all nutrients in adequate supply and balanced usually generates the highest and most profitable crop yields.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

### FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

#### Central Ohio – Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Matt Teders, assigned to Madison County, observed three individuals fishing with a cast net at Madison Lake State Park. Officer Teders contacted the group to check fishing licenses and ensure compliance with bag limits. The individuals had a largemouth bass shorter than the minimum length requirement in their bucket and were using a cast net larger than the maxi-

## KIWANIS LEARN ABOUT WESTWOOD BEHAVIORAL SERVICES



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding, in partnership with the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, recently welcomed Molly Spieles, Courtney Duer, and Jeanne LeMeiux as guest speakers. The presenters shared an overview of the services offered by Westwood Behavioral Center and discussed the organization's growing partnership with Little Sprouts Early Learning Center.

Spieles, Duer, and LeMeiux highlighted how this collaboration is enhancing

support for young children and families by integrating behavioral health services within early childhood education settings. The partnership aims to strengthen early learning outcomes by expanding access to behavioral resources, improving early intervention, and providing coordinated support for families.

The Kiwanis Club extends its appreciation to Spieles, Duer, and LeMeiux for sharing their impactful work with its members.

mum size of 10 feet in diameter. The subject who caught the game fish was issued a citation for the unlawful method of take. The angler paid \$150 in fine and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Adam Smith, assigned to Logan County, responded to a call of three dead white-tailed deer in a ditch along the road. Officer Smith determined that all three deer were electrocuted after a power line from a recent storm fell close to the ground.

#### Northwest Ohio – Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Investigator Kevin Good attended a Heroes event at Bellevue Elementary. The event featured local law enforcement officers and emergency medical service providers. Investigator Good shared information about his job and had many positive interactions with students. The students were very grateful and enjoyed learning about wildlife conservation.

#### Northeast Ohio – Wildlife District Three

On National Hunting and Fishing Day in September, the Leetonia Sportsman Club celebrated the 50th anniversary of Leetonia Kids Day, attracting approximately 600 youth and families. State Wildlife Officers Jesse Janosik, Thomas Frank, and Marino Pelligrini, assigned to Columbiana, Mahoning, and Portage counties, respectively; K-9 Officer Moose; State Wildlife Officer Supervisors Eric Bear and Jeremy Carter; and Communications Specialist Monika Bowman added to the day's celebration with wildlife information, identification activities, and

K-9 demonstrations. The Wild Ohio Harvest Mobile Kitchen served samples of white-tailed deer and walleye, inviting people to expand their palettes and taste what Wild Ohio has to offer.

In August 2025, State Wildlife Investigator Matthew Fisher, assigned to Lake Erie, contacted an angler at the Conneaut Boat Club in Ashtabula County. A count of the individual's harvested fish by Investigator Fisher revealed the individual was one over the daily bag limit of six walleye. The subject was issued a summons to Conneaut Municipal Court for possessing more than the legal bag limit of walleye and paid a waiver for \$125 in addition to court costs.

#### Southeast Ohio – Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officers Ted Witham, assigned to Jackson County, Tyler Fields, assigned to Scioto County, and Levi Boggs, assigned to Gallia County, worked at the 2025 Bob Evans Farm Festival in Gallia County. Approximately 3,000 people stopped by the officers' booth to test their knowledge on Ohio native furbearing animals. On one of the show's days, 49 buses of kids from Ohio, West Virginia, and Kentucky flooded the original Bob Evans Farm and learned about furs.

#### Southwest Ohio – Wildlife District Five

While conducting compliance checks on opening morning of the dove hunting season, State Wildlife Officers Brady Stevens, assigned to Darke County, and Logan Ambrister, assigned to Shelby County, received information that a hunter shot a killdeer, a

### ROLE OF SECONDARY AND MICRONUTRIENTS

Farmers try to balance the big three nutrients for plant growth: nitrogen (N)-phosphorus (P)- and potassium (K) since they are known to increase crop yields. However, for good soil health and good plant health; the secondary nutrients: calcium (Ca)-Sulfur (S)-Magnesium (Mg) and micronutrients are also important.

Calcium (Ca) is the third

most plant abundant nutrient and is a major regulator of plant hormones for plant growth and yield. However, to get Ca into the plant, you need boron (B) a micronutrient. Boron (B) is like a bus driver hauling Ca into the plant. Unfortunately, there needs to be a soil balance because Ca ties up B and vice versa. So too much of either one or too little causes poor growth and low yields. Adequate Ca promotes more roots, bigger shoots, bigger leaves, more flowers, more

pollen and ultimately higher yields.

Sulfur (S) is another important nutrient especially for building critical plant amino acids. As an electron donor, S helps plants control light intensity, heal wounds, improves drought resistance, helps plants survive cold weather, and is a great antioxidant by tying up heavy metals. When Acid Rain was prevalent 50 years ago, farmers got their S for free at a rate of 20-30#/Acre. With 1980's environmental clean-up, now farmers get only 6-10#/A. Sulfur is almost universally low on most soil tests now. Farmers need 1# S for every 10# of N applied. With S levels so low in the soil, adding a little extra may be beneficial because a lot of N & S comes from soil organic matter (SOM) and from microbes and not applied fertilizer. Figure about 2.5# of S for every 1% SOM and roughly 6-10# from the atmosphere. High yielding soybeans need more S.

Magnesium (Mg), as a nutrient, often gets a bum rap. High soil Mg levels make soils tight and compacted. However, Mg is the central element for plant chlorophyll. Most plant available Mg come from SOM, so high levels of SOM buffer the negative effects of Mg and make it plant available. Low SOM and high Mg make soils tight but higher levels of SOM buffer high Mg levels and improve soil aggregation. Sandy soils tend to be low in Mg.

Iron (Fe) is not a micronutrient that farmers worry much about. Most clay soils

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protected bird species. The officers discovered the killdeer hidden in the bushes near the suspect. The unlawfully taken bird was seized as evidence and the suspect was issued a summons for taking or possessing a nongame bird. The individual was found guilty in Darke County Municipal Court and ordered to pay \$349 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Alex Almeter, assigned to Greene County, and Wildlife Officer Supervisor Dave Warner attended an in-person hunter education course. The course was sponsored by the Greene County Fish and Game Association, and 38 attendees completed it. Hunter and trapper education programs are redesigned for every age and ability and are run by some of Ohio's best and most knowledgeable hunters and trappers. Find a course near you at wildohio.gov.

## REP. KLOPFENSTEIN VOTES IN SUPPORT OF CHARLIE KIRK AMERICAN HERITAGE ACT

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) yesterday voted in support of House Bill 486 – the Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act – legislation that works to preserve the ability for educators to discuss the positive impact of religion on American history, highlighting its consistency with freedom of speech and emphasizing how imperative it is to reduce politically motivated hate and violence in society.

This legislation was developed following the tragic death of conservative Christian activist Charlie Kirk.

“It’s important to clarify that this legislation does not mandate the teaching of any religion in our schools,” said Rep. Klopfenstein. “However, there’s no denying that the foundation of our nation was shaped by Judeo-Christian values. In times of tragedy, we are reminded of the timeless wisdom of our founding fathers and the blessings they set forth at the birth of our country.”

Under the bill, the General Assembly declares that:

- “The teaching of the historical and positive impact of religion on American history is consistent with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. An accurate and historical account of the influence of Christianity on the freedom and liberties ingrained in our culture is imperative to

reducing ignorance of American history, hate, and violence within our society.”

- “Accurate historical instruction regarding verifiable, historical impacts of religion on American history is factual and is not proselytization or a violation of the First Amendment.”

The bill reaffirms that teachers in public schools and state institutions of higher education, when teaching American history, can include instruction on the positive impacts of religion on American history.

House Bill 486 now heads to the Ohio Senate for further consideration.

## ODNR REMINDS OHIOANS TO STAY SAFE ON THE WATER AS TEMPERATURES DROP

As Ohio’s scenery shifts from fall color to winter calm, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft is reminding outdoor enthusiasts to stay alert and prepared when heading out on the water.

“Ohio’s lakes and rivers are beautiful in every season, but cold water brings serious risks,” said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. “Wearing a life jacket and understanding the dangers of cold water can make all the difference in keeping your adventures safe and enjoyable.”

It’s important for boaters to be prepared for cold water if they plan to head out on the water during the fall and winter seasons.

Water below normal body temperature (98.6°F) can cause rapid heat loss, cooling the body up to 25 times faster than cold air of the same temperature. This can significantly increase the risk of hypothermia. Nearly 90% of boating fatalities result from drowning, and almost half of those involve immersion in cold water.

Just like wearing a seat-belt in a car, putting on a properly fitted, U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket is the simplest and most effective way to stay safe on the water. Dressing in warm, layered clothing and letting someone know your float plan, where you’re going and when you’ll return, are also key steps to staying safe.

Recognized as the No. 1 state park system in America with the 2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft provides exceptional outdoor recreation and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and conservation of Ohio’s 76 state parks and waterways.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](https://ohiodnr.gov) (<https://ohiodnr.gov>).

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## RIVerview HEALTH AND PARKVIEW HEALTH FINALIZE AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE PATIENT CARE IN HAMILTON COUNTY

Riverview Health and Parkview Health announced today that they have entered a new managed services agreement designed to further strengthen Riverview Health’s commitment to delivering high-quality, patient-centered care in Hamilton County.

“This partnership reflects our ongoing dedication to meeting the evolving needs of our patients,” said Dr. William Kirsch, vice-chairman of the Riverview Health Board of Directors. “By aligning with Parkview Health, a leading not-for-profit health system in our state, we are building on our legacy of community-focused care and ensuring that residents of Hamilton County continue to receive exceptional healthcare close to home.”

With a shared mission of improving health and inspiring well-being, Riverview and Parkview will work together to enhance operational efficiencies, expand access to services and support clinical excellence. The agreement allows Riverview to benefit from Parkview’s extensive expertise in healthcare management, innovation and system integration, while maintaining its independence, strong local presence and identity.

“Riverview Health is made up of an incredible team of caregivers, and we’ve enjoyed learning about their impactful work,” said Dr. Greg Johnson, chief physician executive of growth and emerging markets, Parkview Health. “This is an exciting day, and we look forward to continuing our work together to best serve the community’s health needs and collaborating to explore new growth opportunities.”

About Riverview Health  
Riverview Health is an independent, community-based health system offering comprehensive healthcare services throughout Hamilton County. The system’s

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network includes a 156-bed hospital in Noblesville, a 16-bed hospital in Westfield, three additional combined ER and urgent care facilities and 10 primary care locations. With expertise in more than 25 specialties, Riverview Health also provides a full range of inpatient and outpatient services and is consistently recognized for clinical and service excellence. Most recently, Riverview Health was certified as a Great Place to Work® and received the Culture of Good Community Impact Award for 2025.

About Parkview Health  
Parkview Health is a non-profit, community-focused health system serving Indiana and northwest Ohio with a mission to improve health and inspire well-being. Based in Fort Wayne, Parkview is northeast Indiana’s largest employer with approximately 17,500 co-workers.

Parkview Health includes 15 hospitals and an extensive network of primary care and specialty care physicians. Parkview annually earns multiple "A" Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, is ranked among the Best Hospitals in Indiana by U.S. News & World Report, has been recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health for excellent hospital quality and outcomes, and received the NRC Health No. 1 overall Excellence in Patient Experience Award for medium-sized systems.

Parkview has established a track record of taking bold steps to reduce healthcare costs. Since 2020, they have renegotiated contracts with major health insurance companies to yield more than \$1.1 billion in total rate reductions. The health system has also entered a new long-term contract with Anthem that further reduces hospital rates through 2029; launched numerous low cost, non-hospital ambulatory care sites; and now offers a direct-to-employer health plan that offers hospital savings of more than 25% compared to commercial insurance plans.

## PARKVIEW’S DR. MICHAEL MIRRO HONORED WITH AWARD OF MERIT BY INDIANA HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION

Dr. Michael Mirro, chief academic research officer for Parkview Health, was recently awarded the Indiana Hospital Association’s (IHA) Award of Merit.

This annual award from the IHA recognizes one non-CEO individual who has made noteworthy contributions to the healthcare field in Indiana. The IHA represents more than 160 Indiana hospitals and advocates for policy to support and advance healthcare in the state.

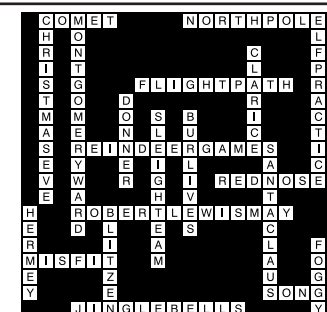
“Throughout his career, Dr. Mirro has shaped the future of healthcare not just here at Parkview but across Indiana,” said Rick Henvey, CEO, Parkview Health.

Dr. Mirro earned his undergraduate degree at Loyola University in Chicago and received his doctorate in medicine from the Indiana University School of Medicine. After a brief teaching and research venture in Iowa, Dr. Mirro returned to Indiana and joined Fort Wayne Cardiology in 1981 where he established an in-house infrastructure to process and manage grant and research projects, allowing the practice to conduct clinical drug and device trials. He was named chief academic research officer for Parkview in 2014.

His passion for and prolific production in research led him to pitch the idea in the early 2010s for a new facility to house Parkview’s research administration. Throughout discussions, that idea grew to become a nexus for research, innovation and education, and with a leading gift from Dr. Mirro and his wife, the eponymous Mirro Center for Research and Innovation opened in April 2015.

Dr. Mirro has also served as a longtime educator, serving as a professor with the Indiana University School of Medicine starting in 1982, a role which he still maintains to this day. He has served on numerous boards for the university and was appointed as a member of the Indiana University Board of Trustees in 2014. Dr. Mirro sat on the board of trustees through 2023, including serving as president from 2017-21.

“Dr. Mirro is a transformational leader who has devoted his life to bettering the practice of medicine, the field



Crossword solution from page 9

of cardiology and the advancement of research,” said Dr. Ray Dusman, president, physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. “His lifetime of accomplishments over more than 40 years extend far beyond Parkview. He has helped guide the futures of thousands of clinicians as a teacher and educational leader. As a fellow IU alum, a longtime colleague in cardiology and a friend, I offer my sincerest congratulations to Dr. Mirro and I look forward, as always, to seeing what more he can offer our community and profession in the future.”

Dr. Mirro has served with numerous professional and community organizations, including the Fort Wayne Medical Society, Indiana State Medical Association, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northeast Indiana, the Greater Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce, the American College of Cardiology, the Northeast Indiana Wellness Council, Northeast Indiana Innovation Center, Northeast Indiana Elevate Ventures, BioCrossroads and 16 Tech. He also served on multiple government-appointed committees, including the Indiana Controlled Substance Advisory Committee, Allen County Board of Health, Indiana Health Policy Advisory Committee, Indiana Medical Licensing Board and 21st Century Research Fund Board.

Dr. Mirro received a Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana’s highest citizen honor, from Gov. Frank O’Bannon in 1999 and Gov. Eric Holcomb in 2024. He was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science from Indiana University in 2003; was given the Distinguished Hoosier Award by Gov. Mitch Daniels in 2005; awarded the Physician Exemplar Award by the Fort Wayne Medical Society and the Career Achievement Award by the Indiana chapter of the American College of Cardiology in 2018; and granted the Indiana University Bicentennial Medal in 2020.

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## HELP WANTED

**WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**  
The Village of Hicksville is accepting applications and resumes for a full-time wastewater department laborer. Applicants for the position have good mechanical and electrical knowledge and able to work in all weather conditions when necessary. Possession of a class B CDL is a plus and able to obtain an OEPA class 1 wastewater license within 18 months of hire. Medical, Vision, Dental insurance eligible along with OPERS. Applications can be picked up at the Municipal Building 111 South Main Street, or online at [www.villageofhicksville.com](http://www.villageofhicksville.com). For questions, please contact the Village Administrator 419-542-6138 ext.6.

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

Saturday, December 13th, 2025

Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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# PAULDING COUNTY ECONOMICS' YOUTH BUSINESS SHOWCASE EVENT



Pictured above are the judges for PCED's Youth Business Showcase held on November 22nd (l-r) are Nicole Swaney, Isabella Carwile, Heather Sherburn, Jessica Stechschulte, Mark Holtsberry, and Greg Goebel.

The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office recently hosted another successful Youth Business Showcase, highlighting the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of all the local student-run businesses.

The event drew a strong turnout from the community and celebrated the hard work of young entrepreneurs. Top honors were awarded to Haven Kipfer with Thrift to Gift for Judges' Choice, Symon Manz with Dog Treats & Grooming for People's Choice, and Beauden Strahley with Good Sips for Most Creative. "Watching our young entrepreneurs show their creativity and determination is truly inspir-

ing. The Youth Business Showcase isn't just about presenting ideas, it's about building confidence, sparking innovation, and showing our community the incredible potential of the next generation. I couldn't be prouder of the effort and passion these students put into their businesses." Jessica Stechschulte, Paulding County Economic Development.

PCED extends its gratitude to judges Mark Holtsberry of the Paulding County Commissioners, Greg Goebel of First Financial Bank, Nicole Swaney of Cherry Road, and Heather Sherburn of Hid'n Treasures for lending their time and expertise. Special thanks also go to the Paulding VFW,

Chamber of Commerce, Paulding Putnam Electric, and Norfolk Southern for their continued support in making this event possible. The Youth Business Showcase remains a meaningful opportunity to encourage and recognize the next generation of business leaders in Paulding County.

## USED BOOKSTORE FINDS NEW HOME WITH FUEL GOOD ENERGY

Friends of the Paulding County Carnegie Library are very excited to announce that Buy the Book used bookstore has been relocated to 108 N Williams Street,

Paulding. We are pleased to be sharing our new space

with Fuel Good Energy.

Buy the Book has been in business since 2012 offering a wide variety of donated and withdrawn library materials to the public at very low cost. Our mission is to extend the "shelf life" of discarded books and encourage a love of reading.

Friends of the Paulding County Carnegie Library, a 501(c)3, supports the Main Library and it's effort to increase literacy in our community.

Our staff will continue to operate the store on a volunteer basis Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm and Saturdays 9 to noon. All are welcome to browse the shelves and drop their free-will donation in our collection box anytime Fuel Good Energy is open. An outdoor receptacle is available for new-to-us donated books and DVDs.

## McCAULEY RETIREMENT CELEBRATION TO BE HELD AT PC CARNEGIE LIBRARY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is pleased to announce the retirement celebration for Alice (Ali) McCauley.

Ali started her library career November 28, 2012. Her journey began as a clerk and in 2019 advanced to Head of Adult Services/Assistant Director. Many of you would recognize some of the programs she made possible at the library such as "Coffee Talk" which is famous for the lively conversations and her home baked goodies. Cookbook Club, Baking in a Tiny Kitchen and many others. Ali could be found at her desk by the main entrance ready to greet everyone who came to

# WOMEN OF ST. JOHN LUTHERAN HOLD ANNUAL THANK OFFERING SERVICE



The Women of St John Lutheran Church, Hicksville conducted their annual Thankoffering Service on Thanksgiving Eve. The women conducted the Service from the Musician, Acolyte, Leaders, Readers and the mes-

sage delivered by Heidi Turnbull.

During the Service the ladies turned in their Thankoffering Boxes which they have been collecting their coins during the year. ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!

the library. Stop by December 16th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. and wish Ali well as she starts the next chapter of her life.

## ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD REVIEWS VETERAN PROGRAM, CALENDAR OPTIONS, AND BUILDING UPDATES

The Antwerp School Board met Thursday, November 20, 2025, with all members present: Anita Bok, Robert Herber, Jayme Landers, Dennis Recker, and Sara Schuette. Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller welcomed guests including Bob Phillips, Bryce Steiner of the West Bend News, and several government students from Antwerp High School.

Treasurer Kristine Stuart reported October receipts totaled \$1,179,828.73, while expenditures reached \$1,274,412.86. Interest income for the month was \$46,167.06. With a third of the fiscal year complete, the district has received 38.9% of projected revenue and spent 31.74% of its budget. No board members had questions on the financials.

High School Principal Jesse Arnold shared academic and extracurricular updates. Students are preparing for second semester schedule changes, and junior high and high school winter sports are underway. Arnold praised staff for their professionalism during recent parent-teacher conferences and highlighted upcoming events, including mock job interviews for College and Careers students on December 3 and a WTOL Channel 11 news station tour for broadcasting students on December 10. Winter concerts are scheduled for December 12 (band) and December 15 (choir).

Superintendent Miller recognized the successful Veterans Day program. Transitions students created custom dog tags using equipment in the school's Innovation Center, and elementary students prepared gift bags. Attendance was strong, with over 100 guests.

Miller outlined current building and maintenance needs. The 22-year-old bleacher system is failing and may require replacement,

which could consume the entire permanent improvement fund for the year. Pipe breaks and deteriorating sprinkler heads due to corrosive water are being addressed. The school is also working to add key fob access to more exterior doors for improved security.

Several options for the 2026-2027 school calendar are under review. These proposals, developed collaboratively by administrators and teachers, balance instructional days with traditional holidays, aiming to finish before Memorial Day. Input from the public and board is welcome before a final vote in December.

Miller also discussed changes in middle school career tech programming. Starting next school year, waivers will no longer be permitted, requiring a formal career tech program for grades 7-8. Elise Boyer is working on a proposal to be presented at the December board meeting.

Special education staff were congratulated for meeting all state standards, with the district receiving a perfect compliance score from the Ohio Department of Education.

On the technology front, the district continues upgrading door security, server backups, and SmartBoards. Harold Gottke's report also included updates on the school's fire alarm dialer and technology purchases.

Miller also reported on recent and upcoming events, including a film crew visit from Age of Learning, which featured Antwerp's use of their educational platform. Footage will be used in national promotional materials. He noted Antwerp's repeated appearance in U.S. News & World Report rankings and thanked Bryce Steiner for keeping the school's community board up to date.

The board approved consent items including new supplemental coaching contracts, a copy services contract, professional development trips, and an extended student trip to Spain in April 2026.

The board entered executive session at 6:03 p.m. to discuss personnel evaluations and contracts.

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