

WOODBURN LIONS CLUB’S CHRISTMAS AT NEW MAIN STREET VENUE



The Woodburn Lions Club held their annual Christmas Dinner on Monday, December 8th at the new Main Street Occasions reception hall. The beautiful restoration of the former bank building set a festive atmosphere for the dinner.

Lion Dick Hall led mem-

bers and guests in the singing of Christmas Carols. The festive mood set the tone for a raffle to benefit local non-profit organizations. Through the generosity of members and guests we were able to raise over \$1,000 to be distributed in time for the holiday season.

PEVS SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2026 ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME

The Paulding Exempted Village Schools Academic Hall of Fame was created to recognize graduates of any high school currently within the boundaries of the Paulding Exempted Village School District who have achieved a significant degree of success in their professional careers. The first class was inducted in May 2010 and forty-one

individuals are currently in the Academic Hall of Fame. These individuals provide outstanding role models for the students in the PEVS District.

Current members of the Academic Hall of Fame have many traits in common. Each person has achieved success at high levels of education, including advanced degrees such as MD, PhD, DO, DDS, JD, DVM, MA, or MS. In addition, these individuals have great career

and/or societal accomplishments. Many have pursued a military career, while others have become outstanding teachers in their field. Others have served the public through careers such as medicine, law and dentistry, or education. No matter the educational or career path, each inductee has one thing in common... they have provided outstanding role models for the students in the PEVS District.

Do you know someone who graduated from one of the high schools within the current Paulding Exempted Village School District prior to 2011, who would be an excellent candidate to join this elite group? Nomination forms are currently available on the PEVS website at www.pauldingschools.org under the 'Academic' tab or can be picked up in the Administration office. Complete qualifications are listed on the website, along with the bios of previous inductees under the 'Academics' tab. The deadline to apply for the Class of 2026 is March 2, 2026.

ANTWERP COUNCIL HOLDS FINAL 2025 MEETING; MAYOR REEB ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT, COUNCIL APPROVES REDD GRANT FILINGS



Mayor Jan Reeb and Council President, Bryan Smith

The Antwerp Village Council met Wednesday, December 10, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. under the direction of Mayor Jan Reeb. All council members were present: Jason Franks, Bill Boylan, Dean Rister, Bryan Smith, Bryce Steiner, and John DeVore III. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call, approval of minutes, and approval of the November financial reports including the RITA statement.

The village had listed one visitor, Carl Kortokrax, regarding a water main break and driveway repair, though he was not present when called. Written reports were submitted for the police department and EMS.

Several major legislative items were addressed under the Fiscal Officer's report. Council adopted the third reading of Resolution 2025-19, approving the Personnel Manual for 2026, which incorporated amendments regarding the HRA benefit for Medicare-eligible police officers. Council then considered Ordinance 2025-18, establishing compensation for village employees in 2026. The ordinance passed with one dissenting vote. Ordinance 2025-19, setting council's meeting time and place for 2026, was also approved on its third reading. Council next adopted Ordinance 2025-20, approving temporary appropriations

(Continued on Page 3)

Monroeville American Legion — Post 420 —

260-623-6679

★ BINGO! ★

Wednesday Night

Doors open 4 PM

Early Birds 6 PM

Bingo 7 PM Lic# 144707

Full Pack \$30

Specializing in...

to your

DECKS SPECKS!

• 47 yrs experience

• Licensed & Insured

• FREE Quotes

260-417-2651

Other Home Improvement Services Available

Five Star Construction LLC

Room Additions • Garages • Roofing

Pole Barns • Decks • Siding & Concrete

Menno Lengacher

260-740-0071

BBB

Licensed & Insured

Doing Quality Work for Over 30 Years!

2026 DOG TAGS on SALE NOW!

1 year-\$18, 3 year-\$54, Permanent-\$180

Tags may be purchased from:

Paulding County Auditor's Office

115 N. Williams St., Paulding, OH 45879

Phone: 419-399-8205, Mon.-Fri. 8-4:30

(Cash, Check or Visa/Mastercard),

OR PLEASE CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

ONLINE: www.pauldingcountyauditor.com

BY MAIL: Include self-addressed stamped envelope

DROP BOX: Include self-addressed stamped envelope

Located at the East Side of the Courthouse

Deadline is January 31, 2026

Quality Work Over 25 years! Schmucker

Creative Design & Construction LLC.

ROOM ADDITIONS • GARAGES

NEW HOMES & POLE BARNs

BASEMENTS

(Foundation, Walls & Repair, Waterproofing)

Settling, Bowing, Cracking? No problem!

260-403-8949

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

Call for Estimates | creativesignandconstructionllc.com

West Bend Printing office will be close

December 25th

so our employees may enjoy Christmas with their families.

Regular business hours resume on December 26th.

We will also be closed

January 1st

for New Years Day.

Regular business hours resume on January 2nd.

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for ads and news for the December 29th, 2025 edition will be

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

WEST BEND PRINTING & PUBLISHING

101 N. MAIN ST., ANTWERP, OH 45813

419-258-2000 • info@westbendprinting.com

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Aderman Dental	3
ALAW Notice CI 25 084	9
Antwerp Community Band	12
Antwerp Exchange Bank	6
Christ Lutheran Church	2
Creative Design & Construction	1
Den Herder	2
Den Herder FH Christmas Dinner	12
Derck's Landscaping	10
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
Eichers Woodworking	8
Five Star Construction	1
Gerbers Electric	6
Guilford Realty	6
Hicksville Village HW wastewater	11
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Jackson Twp Meeting Notice	9
Klopfenstein Repair	8
Manz Accounting Marcus Miller	3
Monroeville Am Legion Bingo	1
Mount Calvary	2
PC Auditor Dog Warden tag	1
PC Comm Bid Notice Lawn Maint	9
PC Comm Bid Notice Snow	9
PC Court Legal Notice CI 25-190	9
PC NC Rienhard 20256014	9
PC Veteran's Service	4
PC WMEA	9
PUZZLE – Sudoku	9
Quality Amish Construction	3
Richardson at Presbyterian Church	2
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Schmucker Decks	1
WCCH Christmas	7

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 16

- Believe Support Group @ Paulding Church of NAZ, 7p
- PC Library Board Meeting @ Paulding Lib. Conf Rm, 5:30p

December 17

- Santa Claus at Amanda Lee Coffee, 4-6p
- WBESC Board meeting @ Paulding Conf Rm, 5:30p
- Defiance Library Board Meeting @ Defiance, 4p

December 18

- Antwerp Comm. Band @ The Huber, Hicksville, 7:30p

December 19

- The Nutcracker by Ignite Dance Academy @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 7p
- Wayne Trace JH/HS Christmas Walk, before the JV & Var. Basketball game

December 24

- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Woodburn Missionary Church, 7p
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ Riverside Christian Church, Antwerp, 7p

January 5

- Teen Anger Management Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding, 4-5p

January 6

- Kinship Caregivers Support Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding, 6-7p

uMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH CELEBRATES 50th PIPE ORGAN ANNIVERSARY



Pictured above are (l-r) Colleen Richter, Sue Crossland, David Snyder, Rebekah Smith and Sharon Colley.

St. John Lutheran Church, Hicksville held their 50th Anniversary Pipe Organ Rededication Service on Sunday December 7th. Minister Alex Heffelfinger opened the service with the Rededication & Blessing of the Organ. Heidi Turnbull read the history of the organ and organists. The highlight of the service was organ recitals by Sue Cross-

land from Paulding and David Snyder of Payne. The organ was built by the M. P. Moller Organ Company of Hagerstown MD. The organ was dedicated on October 26, 1975, a gift from Roland Doeden in honor of his wife, Ethel. The original cost was \$20,925, with today's replacement cost is \$245,000. The Moller Company was the largest ever pipe

organ company building over 12,000 pipe organs. In their heyday they completed one organ a day. The organ is currently maintained by the Lima Pipe & Organ Company. The service was attended by family members of previous organists. The church currently has Colleen Richter as organist and Sharon Colley and Rebekah Smith as pianists.

COMMUNITY ASKED TO SUPPORT HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS IN HICKSVILLE



The Hicksville Historical Society is seeking help in preserving one of the most cherished pieces of the village's history. The beautiful historic stained-glass windows at St.



Paul's Episcopal Church are in need of significant repair and restoration. The total cost of this project is \$72,750 - substantial, but necessary to protect this important landmark.

A program of sponsorships and gifts have been established in the hope that members of the community will want to support the project.

\$7,000 — Full Window Sponsorship: Includes a personalized plaque placed at the window you sponsor.

\$3,500 — Window Co-Sponsorship: Includes a shared plaque with you and your co-sponsor.

And while the stained-glass restoration is by far the largest undertaking, there are also several ongoing needs that help maintain the historic spaces:

\$4,500 — Replacement of the air-conditioning unit in the Land Office.

Maintaining a controlled environment is vital to the preservation of documents and artifacts.

\$1,000 — Repair of the St. Paul's entrance door to keep the building secure

\$75 — One month of utilities for the Land Office and St. Paul's

As a completely volunteer-run historical society, the generosity of the community is vital. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference and directly supports the preservation of the rich history of Hicksville.

Help protect and honor the legacy of these treasured landmarks. To donate, please contact the Historical Society at hicksvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com, mail to PO Box 162, Hicksville, or find information on the website at www.hicksvillehistoricalsociety.com

Hicksville Historical Society is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

PAULDING SENIOR CENTER DECEMBER DINING CENTER MENU

12/15 - Creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, cinnamon applesauce, cookie, biscuit

12/16 - Smothered steak, hash brown bake, fiesta corn, carrot/raisin salad, dinner

roll, goldfish crackers

12/17 - Turkey, ham & cheese on rye, veggie soup/crackers, potato salad, tropical fruit, oatmeal raisin bar

12/18 - Hamburger gravy, garlic mashed potatoes, wax beans, hot apples, WW bread, jello

12/19 - Pork chop, scalloped potatoes, glazed carrots, mixed fruit, dinner roll, rice Krispy treat

12/22 - Chili, cinnamon peaches, coleslaw slaw, fiesta cornbread, brownie/crackers

12/23 - Chicken, broccoli, rice, warm applesauce, grape juice, biscuit

12/24 - Pot roast / gravy, mashed potatoes, broccoli, apricots, WW bread, cherry pie

12/29 - BBQ pork burger, herbed potatoes, country-style spinach, citrus fruit salad, apple juice

12/30 - Baked fish, scalloped potatoes, seasoned cauliflower, strawberry hash, dinner roll, goldfish crackers

12/31 - Baked ham, sweet potato casserole, wax beans, raisins, orange juice, dinner roll

USDA LAUNCHES NEW REGENERATIVE PILOT PROGRAM TO LOWER FARMER PRODUCTION COSTS AND ADVANCE MAHA AGENDA

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins, alongside U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz announced a \$700 million Regenerative Pilot Program to help American farmers adopt practices that improve soil health, enhance water quality, and boost long-term productivity, all while strengthening America's food and fiber supply.

Building off the Make Our Children Healthy Again Strategy released in September, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is also investing in research on the connection between regenerative agriculture and public health, as well as developing public health messaging explaining this connection.

"Protecting and improving the health of our soil is critical not only for the future viability of farmland, but to the future success of American farmers. In order to continue to be the most productive and efficient growers in the world, we must protect our topsoil from unnecessary erosion and improve soil health and land stewardship. Today's announcement encourages these priorities while supporting farmers who choose to transition to regenerative agriculture. The Regenerative Pilot Program also puts Farmers First and reduces barriers to entry for conservation programs," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "This is another initiative driven by President Trump's mission to Make America Healthy Again. Alongside Secretary Kennedy, we have made great strides to ensure the safe, nutritious, and affordable food our great farmers produce make it to dinner tables across this great country."

"In September, under President Trump's leadership, we released the MAHA Strategy Report, which includes a full section on soil health and land stewardship," said HHS Secretary Kennedy. "Today's regenerative farming announce-

Scripture of the Week

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

— Galatians 4:4-5

PEACE



During Advent, the theme of peace is often emphasized as a key aspect of the season. This time of preparation for Christmas encourages reflection on the peace that comes from faith and hope. Many people find solace in the anticipation of Christ's birth, which symbolizes the promise of peace in their lives and in the world.

The Advent season invites us to reflect on how we can foster peace in our own hearts and in our communities. It's a time to engage in acts of kindness, to resolve conflicts, and to seek reconciliation. Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He gives it generously to all who ask without finding fault.

As we move through this season, we are reminded to not only seek peace for ourselves but also to be instruments of peace for others, embodying the message of love and goodwill that is central to the Christmas story. Colossians 3:15 (NIV): "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." I'm so thankful today that I have peace. Peace be with you, and may God's peace dwell deeply in your hearts.

Peace and Love
—Pastor Dwayne Richardson

ment directly advances that deliverable. If we intend to Make America Healthy Again, we must begin by restoring the health of our soil."

"We cannot truly be a wealthy nation if we are not also a healthy nation. Access to wholesome, nutritious, and affordable foods is a key tenet of the Make America Healthy Again agenda, which President Trump has directed this administration to execute across all government agencies," said CMS Administrator Dr. Mehmet Oz.

In response to the Dust Bowl in the 1930s, Congress created the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help people help the land and improve conservation of the nation's soil and water resources.

This action led to improved soil health and natural resources management which, in turn, has led to increased productivity. Between 1948 and 2021, total U.S. farm production increased 190% while total farm inputs—such as land, labor, and water—decreased 2% in the same period.

However, current conservation programs at USDA have become overly burdensome and farmers are bogged down with red tape whenever

they try to adopt soil health and regenerative agriculture practices. Even with the improved soil health since the creation of NRCS, USDA data shows that farmers recently reported that 25% of acres had water-driven erosion concerns and 16% of acres had wind-driven erosion concerns.

The Regenerative Pilot Program directly addresses these challenges by cutting administrative burdens for producers, expanding access to new and beginning farmers, and boosting yields and long-term soil resilience across operations.

Pastor Dwayne Richardson
will be preaching at Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church

Dec 21,24,28

Dec 24th - Christmas Eve service at 11pm
Regular service time is 10:15am.

Please come join us for a wonderful service.

Peace & Love,
— Pastor Dwayne Richardson



Christ LUTHERAN CHURCH
(The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod)

WORSHIP WITH US SUNDAY

Heritage Service @ 8:00 am
Contemporary Service @ 10:30 am

Every Wednesday Night 7:00 pm

Located at the corner of Park & SR 101
Woodburn, IN 46797 • 260-632-4821



3497 County Rd. 424
Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-258-6505

Proclaiming a Changeless Christ in a Changing World.

9:15 a.m. Sunday School, Adult Bible Study
10:15 a.m. Worship Service



Den Herder Funeral Home
"Our Family Serving Yours Since 1912"

John W. Den Herder, Funeral Director
William J. Den Herder, Funeral Director

419-399-2866
www.denherderfh.com

1000 W Wayne St.
Paulding, OH 45879



PEPPERMINT CANDY CANES

Penny For Your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

Candy canes are part of the Christmas tradition and have been since 1837.

The first recorded 'candy stick' comes from 1837 at an exhibition in Massachusetts in the USA. They started as straight white sugar sticks and a few years later the red stripes were added.

The first time they are documented as being called 'candy canes' comes in 1866; and their first connection to Christmas comes in 1874. Early recipes had them as simply 'sugar' flavored. But we're now used to them being flavored with peppermint or wintergreen and many other flavors.

It was in 1920, Bob McCormack, from Georgia, started making canes for his friends and family. They became more and more popular and he started his own business called Bob's Candies.

A story, that's rather nice but probably isn't true, says that German a choirmaster, in 1670, was worried about the children sitting quietly all through the long Christmas nativity service. So he gave them something to eat to keep them quiet! As he wanted to remind them of Christmas, he made them into a 'J' shape like a shepherd's crook, to remind them of shepherds, who visited the baby Jesus.

Sometimes other Christian meanings are giving to the parts of the canes. The 'J' can also mean Jesus. The white of the cane can represent the purity of Jesus Christ and the red stripes are for the blood he shed when he died on the cross. The peppermint flavor can represent the hyssop plant that was used for purifying in the Bible.

A CANDY CANE STORY
One dreary evening in the depths of November a stranger rode into town. He stopped his horse in front of a lonely storefront. The windows were boarded shut and the door was locked fast. But the man looked at it, smiled, and said, "It will do."

All through the gray short days and the long dark nights

of November, the man worked.

The townspeople could hear the faint pam pam pam of his hammer and the snish snish snish of his saw.

They could smell the sweet clean scent of new lumber and the deep oily smell of new paint.

But no one knew who the man was or what he was doing.

The mayor hoped he was a doctor, to heal his illness. The young wives hoped he was a tailor, to make beautiful dresses. The farmers hoped he was a trader, to exchange their



grain for goods.

But the children had the strongest, deepest wish of all. A wish they did not tell their parents. A deep, quiet, secret wish that none of them said out loud.

No one spoke to the man. No one asked if he needed help. They just waited. And watched. And wondered. And wished.

But one small girl watched and wondered, waited and wished longer than she could stand. And one snowy day she knocked at the stranger's door. "Hello," she said. "My name is Lucy. Do you need some help?"

The man smiled warmly and nodded. Then he opened the door, and Lucy stepped inside.

A long counter ran down the side of the room. Bare shelves filled the opposite walls. In the back were dozens and dozens of barrels and crates.

"Could you help me unpack?" the man asked.

Lucy's heart sank at the sight of all the boxes. What if they were only barrels of nails and bags of flour?

But she removed her dripping boots and hung her coat on a peg. On stocking feet, she crossed the rough wooden floor and knelt beside a crate. "Please. Open it," the man urged.

Slowly, Lucy put her hand into the box and pulled out an object wrapped in tissue. Round and heavy, it almost slipped through her fingers.

Lucy trembled a little as she unwrapped it.

It was a glass jar.

Lucy gave the man a puzzled look. "Go on," his nod said.

So she unpacked another glass jar, and another, and another, until she was completely surrounded by jars of all shapes and sizes. Tall and thin. Round and squat. Jars with lids and jars without.

"Now," the man said, "for something to put inside." And he pulled over a huge crate stamped with a strange word.

As Lucy unpacked, her eyes lit up. It was candy. Her favorite candy. Gumdrops!

"Try some," the man said. She popped one in her mouth. Now she could hardly unwrap fast enough. Peppermint sticks! Taffy! Lollipops! Chewing gum!

Wide-eyed, she looked at the man.

"We wished—," Lucy said.

"Yes, I know," said the man. "And here it is. Welcome to Sonneman's Candy Store. I am John Sonneman."

Soon the small store was filled with candies, gleaming in their glass jars. Raspberry suckers and tiny lemon drops. Brightly colored jawbreakers and long tangles of licorice. Pink and white peppermints for church and butterscotch balls for company.

Then, in the very last package in the very last crate, was a candy Lucy had never seen before, a red-and-white striped candy stick with a crook on the end.

"What is this?" Lucy asked.

"This," Mr. Sonneman explained, "is a candy cane. It is a very special Christmas candy."

"Why?" Lucy asked.

"Tell me," Mr. Sonneman said, "what letter does it look like?"

Lucy took the candy and turned it in her hand.

"J!" she said.

"Yes," Mr. Sonneman smiled. "J for Jesus, who was born on Christmas day."

"Now, turn it over. What does it remind you of?" Lucy turned the candy in her hand. She peered down intently. "I know!" she said finally. "It's like a shepherd's staff."

"Who were the first to find out about Jesus' birth?" Mr. Sonneman asked.

"Shepherds in the field," Lucy answered, "watching over their flocks by night."

"But Mr. Sonneman, what

are the stripes for?" Lucy asked.

The man's eyes grew sad. "The prophet Isaiah said, 'By his stripes we are healed.' Before he died on the cross, Jesus was whipped. He bled terribly. The red reminds us of his sufferings and his blood.

"But then," Mr. Sonneman continued, "the candy is white as well. When we give our lives to Jesus, his blood washes away our sins, making us white and pure as snow."

"That," he said, "is the story of the candy cane."

"Is it a secret?" Lucy asked.

Mr. Sonneman looked at her for a long moment, "It's a story that needs to be told," he said. "Will you help me share it?"

It was now the depths of December. The town was whipped round by blizzard winds. For days, the sun hid itself.

But every morning, Mr. Sonneman and Lucy ventured out. They wore heavy woolen coats and bright hand knit scarves. And in their stiff, mittened fingers they each held a bag.

They went to every house in town. They traveled to every farm in the country. They knocked on every door. In every home, they told the story, they left a small gift, and they give an invitation.

On the afternoon of Christmas Eve, the sun finally broke through the clouds. And Sonneman's Candy Store officially opened.

The mayor came, feeling better than he'd felt in days. The young wives came, dressed in beautiful smiles. The farmers came, eager to trade grain for Christmas gifts. The children ran in dizzy circles.

Yes, their wish had come true. Yes, they had come to share in the opening of the candy store. But they shared something more. Something bigger. Something better.

On that Christmas Eve, they shared the story of the candy cane. They told of the miracle of Christ's birth. The misery of his death. And the mercy of his love.

Do you like candy canes? Have you ever found one in your Christmas stocking? Have you heard the story about candy canes? Let me know and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts or maybe a candy cane.



New council members - John Ganger and Derek Demongeot

(Continued from Page 1)
for the beginning of fiscal year 2026, which will remain in effect until permanent appropriations are finalized.

Council then turned to several emergency items. Ordinance 2025-23, suspending the village's compost fee for calendar year 2026, was passed as an emergency mea-

sure following suspension of the rules. Discussion clarified that the suspension applies only to 2026 and would not automatically renew beyond that year.

A series of actions followed related to the proposed Antwerp Square workforce housing development south of the school and the state's Resi-

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.

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

Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holsberry

William Vilas Keckley was born April 28, 1894 in Jackson Township Paulding County, the son of William Sherman, born December 15, 1858 in Union County Ohio and Alice (Bowdre) Keckley, born April 15, 1861 in Ohio. William and Alice were married March 15, 1885 in Union County, Ohio.

In 1888, a daughter, Ruby Gael was born, followed by William V. in 1894, then on March 10, 1900, a son Carroll Paul. By 1900 the Keckley family were living in Payne, Ohio. William was a book-keeper.

By 1910, the family was living on Merrin Street in Payne. William senior, was working for the Coal Real Estate Company as a clerk. William and Carroll were in school at Payne, and Ruby was a school teacher, I wonder if she had her brothers in the classroom.

On May 10, 1912, Alice Keckley passed away, she was buried in Wiltsie Cemetery. On July 21, 1915, William Vilas signed up to join the navy at the Naval Recruiting Station in Indianapolis, Indiana. On December 12, 1916, William married a gal named Alice Brogan, born August 19, 1898 in Manhattan, New York.

Alice and William were married in Manhattan, New York. On May 2, 1917, while living in New York, Alice and William, were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Alice Virginia Keckley. William served on the U.S.S. Neptune April 6,

1917 to June 28, 1918. William was on the first vessel that sailed to France when war broke out. He was there in France, when the first transport arrived in that country.

William received a transfer to join a receiving ship in Norfolk, Virginia to serve as an Armed Guard Detail. He served at this post until July 19, 1918. On September 12, 1918, William's brother, Carroll, registered for the draft, he was not chosen.

On January 18, 1919, William Sherman Keckley, passed away, he was buried with his wife, Alice, at Wiltsie Cemetery.

William Vilas Keckley, served as a Chief Electrician on the U.S.S. Kalk in Boston, Massachusetts. He was honorably discharged April 19, 1919. By 1920, William was stationed in Philadelphia, serving with the Navy, but Alice and daughter, were living at 127th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues in Manhattan, New York.

By 1930, William and Alice and little Alice, were living at Fort Sherman, Cristobal District, Panama Canal Zone. On March 29, 1935, at San Pedro, California, William enlisted back into the Navy. He became a Chief Radioman. In 1936, daughter Alice, married a fella named Clyde Raymond Wells. They lived in Los Angeles, California. William and his wife Alice, lived at 4214 East 8th Street, Long Beach, California. By 1940, William and Alice, were living in Los Angeles at 11763 Nebraska Avenue. William was working as an electrician.

On October 31, 1941, William was called back to active duty. On January 12, 1950, he passed away in Los Angeles, California. He was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Santa Monica, California. His wife Alice, passed away June 14, 1992 in Los Angeles, California and was buried in Valhalla Memorial Park Cemetery, North Hollywood, California. Daughter Alice passed away June 14, 1975, and is buried with her mother.

... Until Next Time!

dential Economic Development District (REDD) grant program. Council passed Ordinance 2025-24, establishing the Antwerp Square Housing District and adopting pro-housing policies needed for REDD eligibility. Council then approved Resolution 2025-21, accepting a \$25,000 donation from the Community Improvement Corporation as part of the required local match. Finally, Resolution 2025-22 was adopted, authorizing the village administrator to apply for the REDD grant and committing the village's share of matching funds.

All three items were declared emergencies in order to meet the state's January submission deadline.

Committee updates included a report from the Planning and Zoning Committee, which met December 4. The committee noted that the Antwerp Square project is still in its exploratory and grant-application phase, with no zoning changes yet requested. It was also reported that Zoning Inspector Daniel Dunlap has formally resigned, and discussions are underway regarding restructuring zoning (Continued on Page 11)

Marcus Miller, Agent
Marcus Miller Insurance
Medicare Advantage - Part D
120 N. Cherry St. - Paulding, Ohio 45879
419-399-2712
Fax: 419-399-4989
Email: marcusmiller1010@gmail.com
Medicare Supplements Health

QUALITY AMISH CONSTRUCTION
• Metal Roofing
• Remodeling
• All types of new construction
Call for **FREE Estimates**
(260) 301-8019

Aderman
FAMILY DENTISTRY
NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
Dr. Andrew Aderman, DDS
110 N High St, PO Box 548 • Oakwood, OH 45873
419-594-3345 • adermanfamilydentistry@gmail.com



DECEMBER 23

Dotting My Teas By: Marlene Oxender

We've all been there. That feeling of not keeping up with the schedule. It can be somewhat nerve wracking. Everyone else is ready for the holidays. Everyone but us.

It's typically early in December when we hear someone mention their shopping is complete. Their smile can be heard in their voice as they tell us they've even wrapped the gifts.

Their Christmas tree is up and looks extra pretty this year. They've done everything right. Their stockings have been hung by the chimney with care. Their house is decked with boughs of holly.

There's a holiday wreath on their front door, and they've even found some mistletoe to hang inside. They didn't miss a thing. They're ready to host holiday parties through the month of December. Their greeting cards will go in the mail tomorrow.

They've even thought about their holiday attire. Each family member will be receiving a new pair of matching pajamas so they can take a family photo. It's a cute way to wish "Merry Christmas" to family and friends.

Then there are the rest of us. Those who tell ourselves there is still plenty of time. Those who work best under pressure. Those who always pull it off without anyone knowing it didn't get done until an hour ago.

Last year on December 23rd, I was telling my friend Debbie that nothing was ready in my home. As if she needed a list of all the things I had not done, I told her. There'd been no decorating in my house. No baking. No cleaning. No nothing.

My excuse was the fact that we have two new kitties in our home that seem to think everything is a toy. And life revolves around them.

I told her I ought to go home and write something about the days leading up to Christmas. The fact that my family wouldn't be home until January 4th meant I had an extra week to ready the house for the holidays. I could delay things a while longer while writing about having nothing done.

December 23

'Twas two days before Christmas

and all through the house the kittens were playing with their little toy mouse.

Not a stocking had been hung.

The halls had not been decked.

In fact, things were quite a wreck!

Not a gift had been wrapped nor placed under the tree.

No pretty ribbons and no pretty bows.

A barren pine tree standing and shimmering no matter no lights.

Please tell me who put two little kitties in charge this year?

Ornaments aplenty will soon be unpacked.

The highest of branches will holler, "Pick me!"

in hopes the kitties won't dismantle the tree.

Greeting cards in the mailbox signed by good friends.

Wasn't that nice of them?

The menu keeps changing. Maybe we should just order in?

I'll pick up the pizza and we'll invite more kin.

Up on the couchtop the kitties they jumped. Outside there are birdies needing to be watched.

The kitties soon exhausted settle in for a nap.

Purring so softly and ever so pretty. One little girl kitty and one little boy.

Oh my, did you hear a noise?

Wake up, dear one. There's been a loud clatter!

Never fear — eight tiny paws

are in charge of the matter. First a serious kitty yawn then a leap to the floor.

A huge stretch forward. A big stretch backwards.

A prow! may be needed. Steps must be quiet.

Save the growl for later. A mystery to be solved.

A friendly jump. A collision in mid-air.

When you hear a

WAHL SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club welcomed Michael Wahl of Keller Logistics Group as this week's featured presenter. Wahl was invited by Kiwanis member Renee Durre and provided an engaging overview of the company's history, growth, and commitment to community involvement.

During his presentation, Wahl highlighted several of Keller Logistics' key community outreach initiatives. Among them is Operation K.A.V.I.C. (Keller Assists Veterans in Crisis), a program that partners with local Veterans Offices to support veterans facing emergency situa-

tions. Originally serving Defiance county only, Operation K.A.V.I.C. expanded last year to Henry and this year to include Paulding and Williams counties, further extending its regional impact.

Wahl also discussed additional Keller Logistics programs, including Ignite Academy and the C.H.E.E.R. Program, both designed to strengthen and support the communities the company serves.

The Kiwanis Club extends its appreciation to Michael Wahl for sharing insights into Keller Logistics Group's community-focused mission.

Now it's time to run and we'll have some fun. Boxing and tumbling and such.

Running here and there all around the chairs. Getting caught on a dare.

A wrestling match. A kitty has been pinned.

A gentle bite upon the neck – paused only for a moment when a kitty hollered, "Ouch!"

Vivi the kitty and Mani her brother. Sibling rivalry. Orneriness at its best.

It's time for outdoor security watch but not for long – it's cold out there!

Just stand at the door 'til they let you out. Then scamper on your way to jump and to play.

The sun may be warm but we won't melt away. When you hear a

"Kitty, Kitty," it's time to run indoors and help them with chores. We'll take care of the fake mouse.

Again! In the evening they'll relax. Popcorn and kitties on laps. Cuddles and blankets if you're all tucked out.

They turn on the box so we can watch what's going on inside. Fishing shows. Rivers, streams, and creeks.

Frogs and toads. Birdies galore. Isn't life grand?

The purr of a kitty – perfect tone and perfect pitch. The original love song.

A way to heal a human's heart. A way to let them know they're the best creature there ever could be.

Now get busy with your Christmas tree! We dare not get in your way, but we'll thank you for the stay

in our new family home. It's nice to know that life with us has made a grand difference!

You're all invited back next year for a helping of our hospitality — a heapin' helpin'!

Birds, that is. Squirrels and chipmunks. Good cheer.

Merry Christmas to all — and to all a good night! P.S. Tomorrow is the 24th!

Marlene Oxender is a writer, speaker, and author. She writes about growing up in the small town of Edgerton, her ten siblings, the memorabilia in her parents' estate, and her late younger brother, Stevie Kimpel, who was born with Down syndrome. Her three published books, Picket Fences, Stevie and Grandma, You Already Am Old, are available on Amazon. Marlene can be reached at mpoxender@gmail.com

THE STORE BOUGHT DRESS

I love stories about Appalachia, and I like this story so well I'll use it as a Christmas story. Better yet two stories.

While we're at it let's make it three. Hang on!

The people of Appalachia are some of the happiest, and friendliest people ever, although they had a very difficult life. Most of them raised every thing they ate and bought very few things from a store. Most were religious people, and their faith was the one thing that they could depend on.

Al and Eva were known as king and queen of the mountain. They were known as most generous people around. If you needed something you could always depend on Al or Eva. One morning in early winter Al stepped out to get a bit of kindling to start a fire for breakfast. As he stepped out he saw smoke rising, it had to be a big fire.

He went running to the neighbors and sure enough their cabin had burned to the ground and was just smoldering. The neighbor had gotten up and kindled a fire in the stove. He went back to bed and the fire got so hot it melted the stove pipe.

He found the neighbors under a tree just huddling together to try to keep warm. He took them home to his house and they lived with them a few weeks, but the neighbors were unhappy, they really wanted their own home. Al rounded up all the folks he could find.

He was going to build them a cabin. The neighbors gathered, they sawed down trees, split lumber, and Al would not rest until the house was completely finished.

He sent out a group of ladies to go across the mountain, and collect anything that people could give. Pots and pans, blankets, a bit of food, anything that they had. Everyone gave something even though they had nothing to spare. Al would not settle until the neighbors had what they needed. Al and Eva became known as king and queen of the mountain.

Tom and Mary had been married two years and were just getting established. They had built their own cabin, were able to raise the food they needed, and even a bit extra to sell. Life was good.

One day a gentleman come by and offered Tom a job of taking a wagonload of goods to New York City. The pay was



good, he would get half now and half when the load was delivered.

The drive would be quite difficult, so he asked his friend Sam to help. The wagon was heavy, and it took nearly a week but they finally arrived. They unloaded their goods, got paid the rest of the money, and began their trip back. But something was beginning to weigh on the boys. They were beginning to realize that they were poor.

Everyone had fine carriages, the shops were beautiful, and people stared at them in their rickety wagon.

Al was determined to buy Mary her first store-bought dress. They stopped at a shop, but it would have taken all the money that he had made. When they got back home Al stopped at the local merchandise store and did buy Mary a dress.

Mary was ecstatic to get the dress, but she reprimanded Al for spending their money on something they didn't need. She was quite happy with the two feed sack dresses that she had, one for church, and one for everyday.

This morning we had something for breakfast that we have quite often, a piece of toast and a bit of peanut butter. Only today we broke into a jar of frozen strawberry jam my wife had put up 3 years ago. The jam was wonderful and I slathered it on.

It reminded me of my father-in-law. He enjoyed a bit of jam or even apple butter, but he used such a small amount, and spread it very thin. I always used my share. I think he had experienced some of the effects of the depression. As I get older I am beginning to understand the simple farm life of our ancestors. This Christmas let's connect with a simple line that truly makes one happy.

—James Neuhouser

WEST BEND PRINTING

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF ADVENTURES

419-258-2000 • INFO@WESTBENDNEWS.NET • 101 N. MAIN STREET, ANTIWERP, OH

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

AI IN PERSONAL FINANCE: THE PROMISE AND THE LIMITS

Your smartphone buzzes with an alert: Your budgeting app has spotted an unusual spending pattern and suggests transferring \$50 from your savings account to your checking account. Later that day, a robo-advisor automatically rebalances your investment portfolio. Welcome to the age of artificial intelligence (AI) in personal finance, where technology is reshaping how we manage money.

What AI can do for your wallet. From tracking every latte to forecasting next month's bills, AI-powered tools are making financial management more accessible than ever. Some apps categorize transactions automatically, while other platforms offer conversational financial advice through text messages. These tools can monitor your credit score, suggest budget adjustments and even negotiate lower bills on services like cable and internet.

The investing landscape has changed as well. Robo-advisors use algorithms to build diversified portfolios, automatically rebalance holdings and apply strategies to

minimize tax bills. Educational tools powered by AI can explain complex concepts through interactive games and simple question-and-answer formats, making financial literacy more accessible.

Where AI falls short. Here's what the algorithms can't do: understand what truly matters to you.

AI doesn't know whether you value sustainable investing over maximum returns. It can't weigh the emotional complexity of saving for a child's education versus retiring early. When sudden illness strikes or a job change upends your plans, AI lacks the context and empathy to guide you through those human moments.

Technology can crunch numbers brilliantly, but it can't offer wisdom. It can't replace human judgment, experience or ethical reasoning. Robo-advisors' predetermined algorithms may not suit investors with complex financial needs like estate planning or comprehensive tax planning.

The human touch still matters. This is where human financial advisors remain indispensable. They provide what technology can't:

- Long-term perspective: Help you maintain focus when markets get volatile and emotions run high

- Goal coordination: Balance competing priorities, help partners merge their financial visions and remind you of goals you've tucked away and didn't know still mattered

- Accountability: Keep you on track with your financial strategy through life's inevitable changes

- Emotional support: Offer

reassurance and wisdom during major financial decisions

Research validates it: Those who regularly work with a financial advisor and have a financial strategy are more likely to feel optimistic about their financial future than those who manage finances on their own, according to 2025 research from Edward Jones and Morning Consult.

Find the right balance. The future likely lies in a hybrid approach: combining data-driven AI insights with the human wisdom of a financial advisor who understands your values, priorities and life's inevitable curveballs. Think of AI as a powerful calculator and your financial advisor as the mathematician who knows which equations to use.

As these technologies evolve, the key is treating AI as a tool, not a guide.

Stay curious about what technology can do for your finances. Stay critical of its limitations. And remember: What matters most in your financial life is something only you can define.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

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

Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publi-

cation. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.

email:

info@westbendnews.net

fax: 419-258-1313

USPS: West Bend News

PO Box 1008

Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Imagine if we did not have abortions. Imagine how many great doctors, dentists, engineers, computer specialists, entrepreneurs, priests, ministers, nurses, plumbers, electricians, factory workers, great moms and dads and on & on, that we would have in America if we did not have abortions. We need them all! It is so sad that these babies in the womb are being destroyed.

Pray for these babies, the Crisis Pregnancy Centers that help moms & babies thrive. Pray for an end to abortion!

Thanks & Blessings to All!

—Judy McCalla,

Respect for Life

Hicksville, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Democrats want total control

As I've said before, Democrats want to rule America without any Christian or conservative input. They don't like God and the positive goodness He brings. They have been systematically removing God from our society since 1947. It would appear their goal is total communism.

I believe these Democrat party leaders want to return us to the days of old. They are just smart enough (but no smarter) to know they can't guide and control a nation of intelligent people. Study the following list and see if you think I'm right or wrong.

Federal School Board - Democrats started this so they could change (reduce) what was taught and how it was taught. Why do you think intelligence of high school and college graduates started falling?

Abortion - Liberals are telling our younger generation that marriage and life are not important.

Transgenderism - Liberal idiots tell our young people, whose brain isn't mature un-

til 25 yrs of age, that they can change their sex if they wish it. They don't explain that about half of them will die at an early age and most live a life of hell.

It's like these communist Democrats want America to return to the days of Paganism. Why else do you think President Biden, his ultra sick advisors and radical party idiots allowed approximately twenty million third world illegal aliens into our country?

They sent us some of their worst or most handicapped people. They emptied jails, hospitals and anyone not producing. Our Democrat party was looking for votes that would keep them in power like Putin in Russia.

Our "political left" is big into gender identity, black lives matter, critical race theory, anti-police and much more. They are happy as long as God, morality and truth are not included. Democrats own most of today's evil.

Most of you Democrats are so blind that you can't see your party leaders are Satan's Gestapo leaders out to destroy Christian America.

Why do we have more evil than we have faith in God? Why do Democrats heavily object so much when we try to send illegal criminals back? What is their evil that Democrats lust after? Why is California allowed to issue commercial driving permits to illegal aliens who can't read road signs or english? Why do our taxes pay for these illegal aliens rather than millions of our sick and poor? Why do Democrats want these illegals to have the same rights as our citizens?

Please do a history study of America since the end of WWII in 1945. We have had a few administrations that were not as good as others but we have had only two administrations that were dangerous to our survival as a free Christian America. Those two are Obama-Biden and Biden-Harris.

Here is how I think we should live and if you can't do this, why are you here? I spent my whole life as an industrial engineer. I worked for five companies without going looking. This is how I did it. GIVE YOUR BEST - LET GOD DO THE REST.

—Richard Mastin

Hicksville, OH

REPS. THOMAS & KLOPFENSTEIN ANNOUNCE RESOLUTION FOR CONGRESS TO ADDRESS GROWING NATIONAL DEBT

State Representatives David Thomas (R-Jefferson) and Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) are leading House Concurrent Resolution 24, legislation urging Congress to address the growing national debt, which has now surpassed \$37 trillion — more than 123% of the United States economic output. The resolution highlights that the debt amounts to about \$108,000 per Ohio resident, with over \$8 trillion held by foreign investors, including more than \$800 billion owned by China.

"Responsible spending doesn't burden our children and grandchildren with insurmountable debt. It is vital that we draw attention to this issue and urge immediate federal action because every delay deepens the debt and indentures the future for the next generation," said Rep. Klopfenstein.

The resolution highlights several concerns, including In 2024, the federal government spent over \$1 trillion more than it brought in. Programs like Social Security and Medicare are projected to run out of funding to cover full benefits within the next ten years. Meanwhile, the government is now spending more on interest payments for the national debt than it does on the entire U.S. defense budget, raising concerns about long-term national security.

Representative Thomas shared, "At some point, it will become a state issue with impacts on our national security and ability to operate services and now is past the time to take steps to help."

"It is my hope that our congressional leaders in Ohio can use this resolution as an example for the need and backing to carry out reforms at the federal level to lower the debt," said Rep. Thomas.

Both Representatives emphasize that Ohio wants to send a clear message to Congress, it's time to get back to responsible budgeting and take steps to reduce this dangerous debt.

The resolution has been referred to the House Government Oversight Committee and awaits its first hearing.

Edward Jones
Member SIPC

**Bryan R Post**
Financial Advisor
117 E High Street
Hicksville, OH 43526
419-542-6260

edwardjones.com

MKT-58940-A AECSPAD

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: Sailers, 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

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

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

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.

All content submitted & printed in the West Bend News becomes the property and copyright of West Bend Printing and Publishing Inc corporation. Any and all reproduction requires prior consent by the Publisher. Any submissions may be edited or rejected by the editor.

Start signing up for

Home Delivery

Receive 52 issues for only

\$62.00 per year. What a great deal!

Delivery to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Is this a gift?

Yes

No

From:

Name _____

Contact: _____

If your business or organization would like to bring in potential clients, contact us about being a customer pick-up location for the WBN.



Mail this form
along with your
check to:

West Bend News
PO Box 262
Antwerp, OH 45813

Your subscription will
begin with the next
edition that is printed
after receiving your
request.

RAIDERS BREAK IT OPEN IN THE FOURTH TO TOP GOLDEN BEARS



Wayne Trace junior Zach Stoller adds two more points as he has a great game against the Golden Bears! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

The Wayne Trace boys basketball team used a decisive fourth-quarter surge to pull away for a 48-35 home win over Bryan on December 5. Holding a narrow 28-24 lead after three quarters, the Raiders turned up the defensive pressure and found their rhythm offensively in the final period, outscoring Bryan 20-11 to put the game out of

reach. Carter Clemens paced Wayne Trace with a game-high 18 points, while Zach Stoller added 12 and Caden Sinn contributed nine as the Raiders improved to 1-1 on the season. Bryan was led by Tucker Watson with 13 points and Jake Arnold with eight, but the Golden Bears were unable to slow Wayne Trace's late-game run.

WOODLAN BOYS FALL IN TIGHT BATTLES: CENTRAL NOBLE, JAY COUNTY, ANGOLA

The Woodlan Warriors came up just short in a defensive battle on November 26th, dropping a 48-41 contest at home to the visiting Central Noble Cougars. After a low-scoring opening quarter, both teams found their rhythm offensively, but Central Noble's balanced scoring and strong fourth-quarter defense proved to be the difference.

Woodlan was led by Peters, who turned in a solid 12-point performance, followed by Delagrange with 10 points, and scoring five field goals. Brooks added 6 points, while Bullock chipped in 3, and Klepper and Hertig each chipped in 3. The Warriors totaled 48 points, shooting 67% from the free-throw line.

Central Noble countered with a steady offensive attack, paced by Freeman, who poured in a game-high 19 points, fueled by six field goals and seven free throws. Knafel followed with 6

points, while Burkhardt and Malcolm each added 7. The Cougars finished with 41 points on the night, hitting four three-pointers and going 9-for-11 at the line.

Woodlan kept the game within reach throughout, trailing 24-20 at halftime and 34-30 after three quarters, but Central Noble closed out the final frame with timely free throws and defensive stops to seal the win.

The Warriors struggled to find offensive rhythm against a disciplined Jay County squad on December 5th, ultimately falling 52-28 at home. Jay County's defensive pressure and balanced scoring attack helped them build an early lead, while Woodlan was never able to generate sustained scoring runs.

Jay County was led by Sommers, who turned in a strong 12-point effort, scoring six field goals—all coming inside. Conner added 10 points, including 3 three-pointers, and Petro contributed 8 and Swoveland chipped in 6. Rounding out the scoreboard for Jay County was Overton with 4, Wasson and Forthofer each with 3, and Barnett and Phillips each with 2. The Patriots showed consistency throughout, scoring double digits in all four quarters while controlling the tempo of the game.

Woodlan's offense was paced by Delagrange, who scored a team-high 12 points, hitting three two-point field goals and sinking two 3-pointers. Bullock added 8 points, while Peters finished with 7 points, including one three-pointer. Completing the Warrior score was Klepper chipping in a free throw. Despite their efforts, the Warriors faced difficulty breaking through Jay County's defensive sets. Jay County led 17-10 at halftime and extended the mar-

gin to 34-21 by the end of the third quarter. Woodlan showed improved scoring in the final frame but could not close the gap as the Patriots maintained control to secure the 52-28 win.

Angola used a dominant second quarter to pull away from Woodlan, defeating the Warriors 74-48 on December 9th. Woodlan was led by scorers Delagrange, but the Warriors struggled to keep pace with Angola's balanced scoring attack. Jacob Freely scored 17 for the Hornets, who built a 46-23 halftime lead and maintained control throughout the second half.

ARCHERS SPLIT PAIR OF GAMES, REBOUND WITH WIN OVER OTTOVILLE

The Antwerp Archers boys basketball team split a pair of games last week, dropping a close road contest before rebounding with a solid home victory. On December 5, Antwerp fell 52-47 at Fort Jennings in a tightly contested matchup. The Archers were even with the Musketeers on the glass, holding an 18-13 rebounding edge, but Fort Jennings shot 48 percent from the floor compared to Antwerp's 39 percent to pull out the win. Antwerp and Fort Jennings both committed 14 turnovers in the game, while the JV Archers narrowly lost 45-42.

Antwerp responded on December 9 with a 53-46 win over Ottoville to improve to 2-1 on the season. The Archers took advantage of 23 Ottoville turnovers and held the Big Green to just nine points in the third quarter to build separation. Antwerp finished with nine turnovers and shot 39 percent from the field, while Ottoville shot 44 percent but was unable to overcome the difference in ball control. The JV Archers fell 63-33 in the night's opening contest.

HICKSVILLE PULLS AWAY EARLY TO DEFEAT ANTWERP



Aces junior McKenna Baird shoots for 3 in the third and scores! More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Antwerp Junior Briley Bagley is fouled on the shot, sending her to the line where she scores one for two in the fourth quarter. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

Hicksville built a steady lead and never looked back in a 47-27 road win over Antwerp on December 11, leading 24-13 at halftime and extending the margin in the third quarter. Antwerp junior Briley Bagley earned a trip to

the free-throw line late in the game and converted one of two attempts in the fourth, while junior McKenna Baird knocked down a three-pointer in the third to highlight the Lady Archers' scoring.

PAULDING WRESTLERS GAIN EARLY-SEASON EXPERIENCE AT HICKSVILLE, COLUMBUS GROVE



Paulding's Avery Cooper topped the podium at the Hicksville Wrestling Invitational on December 6th

The Paulding Panthers wrestling team stayed busy last week, competing in both a tournament and a dual meet as the young season continues to take shape. Several Panthers turned in strong individual performances at the Hicksville Invitational on December 6, highlighted by Avery Cooper's first-place finish. Landon Shartzter placed second, Leonel Reyes finished fourth, Hunter Webb and Michael Griffith each placed fifth, while Magdiel Lopez and Trenton Bail earned sixth-place finishes as the Panthers battled through a competitive field.

Paulding returned to the mat on December 8 for a dual meet at Columbus Grove, where the varsity squad continued to gain valuable experience. Shartzter, Lopez, and Webb each posted 1-1 records on the night, while James Gonzales remained unbeaten at 1-0. The meet provided another opportunity for the Panthers to test themselves against solid competition.

Head coach Elias Jimenez said the team is focused on steady improvement as the season progresses. "We have a lot of work to do," Jimenez said. "It's early in the season so we have time to improve."

OPEN HOUSE



1258 Road 192 Antwerp

December 20, 2025 • 1:00-4:00pm

Completely remodeled ranch on a finished basement located a half mile from Pond-a-River Golf Club. The Backyard features a composite ground level deck with a view of the Maumee River followed by a concrete patio with a sidewalk leading to the 36 x 40 detached garage with a beautiful concrete drive with a colored border matching the house that connects the attached garage and detached garage. The interior has an eat-in kitchen with granite counter tops and a large island that works as the kitchen table. The primary bathroom has a large tub with a separate walk-in tile shower the bedroom has a 4x11 walk-in closet. All siding, concrete, roofing, gutters with gutter guards, and textured garage floor coating are all new. So much to offer. Stop by and see this beautifully remodeled home for yourself and see if it's the right fit for you and your family!

For more information,
call our office at 419-542-6637

Bruce Guilford

Real Estate & Auctioneering LTD.

Prepare for power outages with Generac

GENERAC
Home Standby Generators Available now & Ready to Install

GERBERS ELECTRIC

RESIDENTIAL GENERATOR DEALER

260-632-5123 • gerberselectric.com

we're not just bankers . . .



we're neighbors

Antwerp, Ohio
419-258-5351
305 S. Main St.
Antwerp, OH 45813

Payne, Ohio
419-263-2705
102 N. Main Street,
Payne, OH 45880

Harlan, Indiana
260-657-1000
10726 Thimlar Rd
Harlan, IN 46743

Member FDIC

Glory to the Newborn King!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear WCCH Family,

Receiving children into our family is the mission of Woodburn Christian Children's Home. Jesus said, "Whoever receives one child like this in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me does not receive Me, but Him who sent Me" (Mark 9:37). The word "receive" in this passage carries the idea of receiving a person into one's family to bring up and educate. With your help, this is our WCCH ministry. We receive discouraged children into our family for the purpose of proclaiming the Truth of Jesus

to the least of these. The outcome glorifies God. Below is a reflection from Jonah, a 14-year-old boy living at WCCH.

"I have been at the Woodburn Christian Children's Home for over a year. Being at the children's home is different than my house but I have adjusted to living here. I have gone to church camp where we played games with our tribes, did sword drills, went swimming and had recreation. I also went to Hillsboro Family Camp where I confessed my faith in Jesus and was baptized. The reason I wanted to be-

come a Christian was to get saved from my sin and to get added to the family of God. My favorite activities are swimming, playing basketball, gaga ball, and riding my bike. I appreciate that my house parents make me yummy food, including my favorite meal, pizza. I also appreciate the tutors that help me with homework. My favorite trip was to the alligator sanctuary in Michigan where we saw lots of cool alligators. The church I go to is Harlan Church of Christ where I go to class and youth group. At youth group we do a lesson and then play a group game after, which is fun

and very exciting. I attend Harlan Christian School and I am in 7th grade. My favorite class is gym because we play basketball and run around. I have enjoyed my time here at the children's home and I am thankful for the people that care for me."

Jonah was received into our WCCH family for the purpose of educating him in the grace of God. Now he has been received into the Kingdom through his faith in Jesus. Your vital partnership is changing lives!

—Joe Heins, Executive Director

Raising Children at WCCH

Transformation is a key word at WCCH. Children come into our family conforming to the pattern of a broken world. At WCCH, we believe a child's behavior reflects the experiential life story tucked away in their hearts and minds. For many children at WCCH, their story and resultant behaviors reflect frustration, loneliness, and bitterness. Our goal is to transform their story of disappointment into a story of God's glory.

Transformation happens daily around the dining room tables, in the recreational areas, and in the new Learning and Counseling Center. Each of these ministry environments are dedicated to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every person who serves and volunteers at WCCH ministers to children, families and a Kingdom of churches for the purpose of transformation.

Specifically, the learning and counseling center helps children discover God's calling through biblical studies, academics, life skill, vocational investigation, while healing from abuse, neglect, and trauma. The center knits together our mission enabling us to raise

children of hope physically, emotionally, and educationally.

To read an expanded view of raising hope-filled children, please www.thecra.org/herald. The article titled "Who is Responsible" was written by Joe Heins detailing how families can raise children of hope.



Scan the QR code to view our website for more information!



Check out our Facebook page and website to learn more. Also, please consider joining our monthly e-newsletter mailing.

Scan the QR code or go to wcchonline.org to sign up.



P.O. Box 459 • Woodburn, IN 46797
260-632-5551 • fax: 260-632-1600
WCCHONLINE.ORG



THE LEFT TURN



USAC Midgets return to Eldora in 2026. Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

This is one of the slowest weeks in the year for racing. Sponsors, promoters, race-tracks, car owners, race teams and fans are all making the trip to Indianapolis for the annual PRI Show. USAC also acknowledge their season champions in all divisions. It's the largest trade show for sanctioned motor sports in the country.

Toledo Speedway haven't posted their 2026 full schedule, but they have released some key dates. The big block ISMA/MSS Supermodifieds will return to the high banks of Toledo's half mile track this season. The date will be announced soon. Father's Day, Sunday, June 14th, the 500 Sprint Car tour will headline a big show that also features Kenyon Midgets and Factory Stocks. The 38th running of the Glass City 200 will be held September 20th. October 2nd and 3rd Toledo Speedway will close their season with the



IMSA MSS Supermodifieds will return to Toledo Speedway. Jim Davidson Photo.

Stars, Stripes and Speed Fest. This will be a high-octane weekend of action including the USAC Silver Crown championship race, and the return of Outlaw Super Late Models on the high banks in a 50-lap feature.

This week the Rumble in Fort Wayne will feature Midgets, 600 wing and non-wing midgets, different classes of karts, quarter midgets and mini wedges. On both nights, December 19th and 20th, all car classes have heat races and features, but Sunday the midgets will have a 100 lap feature to highlight the event.

Most racetracks have posted their 2026 schedules. Limaland Motorsports Park and Mansfield Speedway just released their upcoming schedules this week. USAC posted their National Midget calendar and the only race in Ohio will be at Eldora during the 4 Crown weekend, in September. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

ANDERSON'S BIG NIGHT LIFTS WOODLAN PAST ADAMS CENTRAL, 63-53

Woodlan built an early lead and held off a late push to defeat Adams Central 63-53 on December 6. The Warriors led 30-21 at halftime and maintained control through the third quarter before Adams Central outscored Woodlan 22-19 in the fourth, trimming the margin but not enough to close the gap.

Anderson led all scorers with 25 points for Woodlan, with Scheumann adding 11 and Sterling and Peoples contributing 10 points each to balance the scoring. Adams Central was paced by Stafford with 26 points, while Fisher scored 11 and Brotherton added 10 in the loss.

PANTHERS BOUNCE BACK WITH ROAD WIN AFTER DEFIANCE LOSS

The Paulding Panthers opened the week with a 59-51 loss at Defiance on December 5, despite a strong offensive showing from several players. Tyson Manz led the Panthers

with 18 points, while Blake Rhonehouse added 14 and Xander Kuckuck chipped in 13 as Paulding stayed within striking distance throughout the nonconference matchup. Max Daeger and Gannon Parrett each contributed three points in the effort.

Paulding responded two days later with a hard-fought 60-57 road win at Pettisville on December 7 to even its record. Blake Rhonehouse poured in a game-high 23 points to pace the Panthers, with Jalen Manz adding 12 and Tyson Manz scoring nine. Gannon Parrett finished with five points, while Grady Barton added seven as Paulding held off a late Pettisville push.

With the split, the Panthers stand at 1-1 overall and 0-0 in conference play as they head into the next week of the season.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

James A. Sweet of Continental, Ohio, had a domestic

violence charge dismissed with prejudice. The case was dismissed at the request of the state, with Sweet paying the court costs.

Trent C. Mueller of Hamler, Ohio, was found guilty of failure to control. He was fined \$95, with \$70 in court costs.

Joel C. Johnson of Paulding, Ohio, was found guilty of failure to control. He paid a \$95 fine and \$70 in court costs.

Terra D. Watson of Delphos, Ohio, was found guilty of a seat belt violation and paid a \$62 fine and \$30 in court costs.

Terrance J. Landwehr of Cecil, Ohio, was found guilty of driving under suspension (non-FRA) and ordered to pay \$97 plus \$100 in fines, with a requirement to show proof of insurance by December 11.

Benjamin C. Williams of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of reckless operation, fined \$250, and sentenced to 30 days in jail (all suspended) with a one-year license suspension; a second charge of failure to control was dismissed.

Jesse W. Miller of Conroy, Ohio, pled guilty to aggravated menacing and was fined \$100 plus \$280 in court costs, sentenced to 180 days in jail with 178 suspended, and placed under strict probation conditions including treatment compliance and no contact with the victim or Cecil Maramart. Must report weekly to probation and remain medication compliant.

Justin R. Flores of Defiance had a charge of operating a vehicle under the influence dismissed. He also had the charges of two charges—failure to control and a seat belt violation—dismissed by the court.

Dennis L. Romes of Cecil pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$715, sentenced to 180 days in jail with 170 suspended, and his license was suspended from August 30, 2025, to August 20, 2026. He must complete standard probation, a risk assessment, an evaluation through Westwood, 20 hours of community service, and the "Keeping It in Check" class. Two additional charges—OVI (low breath) and speeding—were dismissed.

Deonate L. King of Fort Wayne pleaded guilty to reckless operation, receiving a \$250 fine and 30 days in jail with 27 suspended. His license was suspended for one year starting December 22, 2025. His charges for marked lanes and speeding were dismissed. The court ordered that fines and costs be deducted from his bond.

Melvin P. Hochstetler Jr. of Fort Wayne pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565, sentenced to 180 days in jail with 177 suspended, and his license was suspended from October 11, 2025, to October 11, 2026. The court noted that he completed the Driver Intervention Program and his administrative license suspension was terminated.

Kwyn D. Harley of Bedford, Texas, was found guilty of driving while texting. The case was waived by the defendant, and Harley was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Madison R. Thompson of Paulding, Ohio, was found guilty of a seat belt violation while driving and was fined \$57.

NSCC RECOGNIZES PHI THETA KAPPA AND ALPHA DELTA NU INDUCTEES AT RECENT CEREMONY



ARCHBOLD, OHIO – The Fall Induction Ceremony for the Alpha Delta Nu (ADN) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honors Societies was held at Northwest State Community College (NSCC) on December 4, 2025. The evening opened with an inspirational address from NSCC Associate Vice President for Academics, Dr. Jason Lafferty, followed by the member inductions. The evening concluded with a small celebratory reception. The event welcomed approximately 50 guests, including inductees, family members, and NSCC Faculty and Administration.

In order to qualify for induction into the Alpha Delta Nu Chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society, students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with at least a B in all nursing classes. The mission of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society is to recognize the academic excellence

of students in the study of Associate Degree Nursing. The society encourages the pursuit of advance degrees in the profession of nursing as well as continuing education as a life-long professional responsibility.

To be eligible for induction into Phi Theta Kappa, students must have a minimum 3.5 grade point average after completing at least eighteen credit hours of college coursework. Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) recognizes the academic achievement of college students and provides opportunities for its members to grow as scholars and leaders. Established in 1918, Phi Theta Kappa has a presence on almost 1,300 community college campuses in 11 nations. The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) recognized Phi Theta Kappa as the official honor society for two-year colleges in 1929. More than 3.8 million students have been inducted since 1918,

with approximately 250,000 active members in the nation's community colleges, making Phi Theta Kappa a true catalyst among members and colleges.

Alpha Delta Nu recipients: Jessica Bockover (Bryan), Mykenzi Hartz (Edgerton), Jody Henshaw (Bryan), Emily Keeran (Cloverdale), Ashlee Lyons (Pioneer), Mariah Schuller (Bryan). Please note: not all students recognized were present at the ceremony for both groups.

Phi Theta Kappa inductees:

Carlos Avina (Wauseon), Ryan Beier (Berkey), Brady Clark (Defiance), Hailey Engel (Ney), Madisyn Felix (Wauseon), Laura Fox (Defiance), Brandi Galbraith (Wauseon), Rose Greenlaw (Holgate), Hailie Hahn (Archbold), Kristi Leaders (Napoleon), Anna Meraz (Paulding), Danielle Shortt (Bryan), Caydence Shull (Antwerp), Julissa Solano (Holgate).

HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC SCHOOL AWARDED \$10,000 GRANT FOR GYM HVAC UPGRADE



Pictured in the gymnasium are (L to R) Katelyn Ruiz - Holy Cross Catholic School Marketing Director/Fundraising Coordinator and Amy Deager - DAF grants committee member.

Congratulations to Holy Cross Catholic School of Defiance for receiving a \$10,000 grant during the Defiance Area Foundation's (DAF) fall grant cycle, from the Defiance County Capital Projects Fund under the DAF umbrella! This grant money will be used to

add heating and air conditioning into the school's gymnasium. This is where the students not only hold their gym classes but also eat lunch! This is a much needed upgrade for Holy Cross Catholic School and DAF is excited to be a part of it!

Good News doesn't just happen. It's made!

Send us your good news and let everyone know of the great things happening in your community.

22319 Ward Rd., Woodburn, IN 46797 • 260-632-1065
ewslc@emypeople.net
eicherwoodworkingshop.com



• Granite & Formica & Quartz Countertops

• And Much More
• 3600 Square Ft. Store & Display

Furniture Store Hours:
M-F 8-4:30; Sat 9-12; Closed Sun

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

ASE KLOPFENSTEIN REPAIR ASE
AUTO • TRUCK • FARM • INDUSTRIAL
Major & Minor Repairs • Complete Vehicle Maintenance
AC Service & Repair
Diesel Service • Complete Engine Rebuilding
DOT Inspections • ASE Certified Staff
Tim & Victor Klopfenstein 19718 Notestine Road
657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

(Continued from Page 8)

and fined an additional \$280.
Mohammad E. Dawabisha of Hobart, Indiana, was found guilty of operating an unsafe vehicle and fined \$105

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officers Chad Grote, assigned to Marion County, and Tyler Eldred, assigned to Morrow County, followed up on a complaint of an individual hunting after hours from a motor vehicle in Delaware County. Neighbors reported hearing gunshots the night before and found a dead deer in the morning. The officers located a suspect and dis-

covered the individual hadn't hunted after hours, but had taken a deer without a hunting license or deer permit. Then venison was seized, and summonses were issued for the violations. The suspect was found guilty in Delaware Municipal Court and paid \$287 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Matt Teders, assigned to Madison County, was dispatched to a report of an abandoned boat at Mackey Ford Wildlife Area. Officers Teders located the sunken boat in the Scioto River. He put on waders and inspected the boat for a registration number but found none. Officer Teders pushed the boat close enough to the boat ramp to attach a tow strap and towed the boat out of the water and into the parking lot. The Division of Parks and Watercraft was notified and will dispose of the boat according to procedure.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Officer Nathan Cass, assigned to Crawford County, assisted the Galion Police Department upon request in a search for burglary suspects. The suspects crashed their car while fleeing the scene of the burglary and took off on foot into a rural area. Officer Cass ar-

rived on scene and began searching for the suspects, but after several hours the search was called off. Officer Cass remained in the area to search and observed two individuals who matched the suspects' description walking through a brushy field. He notified Galion police officers and Morrow County deputies, and the suspects attempted to hide when additional officers arrived. Officer Cass assisted with apprehending the two suspects, who were transported to Crawford County Jail.

State Wildlife Officer Nathan Cass, assigned to Crawford County, found a debit card in the parking lot of Bucyrus Reservoir while conducting fishing license checks. Officer Cass located a possible address for the individual and went to the residence to return the card. The individual was unaware the debit card was missing and was grateful Officer Cass found it before someone misused the card.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

The Ohio Division of Wildlife's Search, Rescue, and Tracking Team (SRTT) was asked to help locate an individual with dementia who had wandered off near Leesville Lake about 48 hours prior. SRTT officers responded and formulated a search plan. They coordinated a joint effort with Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District rangers, Carroll County Sheriff's Office deputies, and volunteers from ETHOS Rescue Operations. The individual was located, treated by EMTs, and returned safely home.

In July, State Wildlife Investigator Jason P. Hadsell, assigned to Lake Erie, contacted a fishing boat with five individuals on board. The individuals had current fishing licenses but had taken two more than the daily limit of six walleye per person. The boat owner paid a \$175 fine and \$100 in restitution for the offense, and two walleye were seized as evidence.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

State Wildlife Officers Jacob Parker, assigned to Monroe County, and Scot Gardner, assigned to Washington County, followed up on a Turn-In-a-Poacher (TIP) report of a white-tailed buck deer that had been killed unlawfully. The officers met with the suspects at their home in Monroe County and discovered that their harvest was not game checked. One individual was charged for hunting without a license, and the second was charged for hunting without a license or valid deer permit. Both were found guilty in Monroe County Court, and the second individual was ordered to pay the full restitution value for the buck of

\$2,283.26. Anyone observing illegal wildlife activity can call the TIP hotline at 1-800-POACHER (762-2437) and make an anonymous report.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Isaiah Gifford, assigned to Clinton County, was on boat patrol at Cowan Lake when he observed two individuals in an inflatable boat throwing a cast net. Officer Gifford contacted the two individuals and discovered that the individual throwing the net had unlawfully taken sport fish with the cast net. A cast net may only be used to take forage fish and minnows. Officer Gifford issued a summons for the offense to the angler who was throwing the net. The suspect paid \$200 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officers Jason Keller, assigned to Warren County, and Lucas Wildman, assigned to Clermont County, along with K-9 Officer Scout attended the West Chester Bass Pro Shop's Christmas promotional night. The event highlighted Santa's arrival. The officers set up the inflatable archery range and answered questions. Officer Keller and K-9 Officer Scout visited with attendees.

VETERANS BANNER FOR WAYNE TRACE COMMUNITIES

The STEAM Center at Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School is excited to once again create veterans banners to be displayed in the Grover Hill, Haviland, Scott, Latty, and Payne communities. This is the third year students have collected information on the service men and women who either lived in or currently live within the boundaries of their school district as part of a STEAM Center project which has produced over 300 banners for display.

The first two years of the program were financed through several grants, including a major gift from the Ohio Arts Council. Thanks to a very generous donation from the Grover Hill VFW and an additional gift, the STEAM Center is excited to announce that the cost of producing and maintaining these banners will once again be fully covered in 2026. The school had originally thought that they would have to charge families for the cost of making the banners, but once again, our community organizations and members have stepped up to help show their appreciation for our veterans!

Veterans and family members who have previously submitted their information will continue to see their banners being maintained and

The West Bend News Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

displayed while new banners can be ordered by visiting the Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School's website for order forms and details. All information for new banners should be submitted by February 15, 2026 in order to be created for display this summer.

NOTICE

The Jackson Township, Paulding County, Ohio, December, meeting is changed to Thursday December 18th, 6pm, at the township hall.

The Jackson Township 2026 Annual Organizational Meeting will be on Monday January 5th, 2026, 6pm, at the township hall.

Trustees: Steve Sprow, Brandon Manz, Dennis Sanderson and Fiscal Officer, Mary Howard.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, is requesting proposals for snow removal at the Paulding County Courthouse, County Parking Lot, Sheriff's Office, and Water Street Facility from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. All inquiries must have a certificate of liability included with their bids. Specifications for county lots may be picked up in the Commissioners' office, 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E, Paulding, OH 45879, or online at www.paullingcountycommissioners.com. The proposal shall be marked "2026 Paulding County Snow Removal" and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal must be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners no later than 9:00 a.m. on the 29th day of December, 2025. The Board of County Commissioners' office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners' Office at 419-399-8215.

HEATHER BARNHOUSE, CLERK
BY ORDER BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
MIKE WEIBLE
MARK HOLTSBERRY
LISA MCCLURE

Paulding County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME

PROBATE COURT OF
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
HARVEY D. HYMAN, JUDGE

IN RE: Change of Name of
KAI SULLIVAN BUTLER
(Present Name) to
KAI SULLIVAN REINHARD
(Name Requested)
Case No. 20256014

NOTICE OF HEARING ON
CHANGE OF NAME [R.C. 2717.08
AND 2717.14]

Applicant gives notice that the Applicant has filed an Application for Change of Name in this Court requesting the change of name of KAI SULLIVAN BUTLER to KAI SULLIVAN REINHARD

A hearing on the Application will

FILED

NOV 24 2025

PROBATE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OH

be held on the 22nd day of January, 2026, at 1:30 o'clock P.M. in the Probate Court of Paulding County, located at 115 N. Williams St., Suite 202, Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Kai Reinhard
Applicant's Signature
EMILY REINHARD
Typed or Printed Name
17010 ROAD 146
Address
PAULDING OH 45879
City State Zip
emilyreinhard16@gmail.com
Email Address

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.paullingcountywmea.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Board of County Commissioners of Paulding County, Ohio, is requesting a proposal for mowing, trimming, landscaping, and ground maintenance for the Paulding County Courthouse Square, from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026. All inquiries must have a certificate of liability included with their bids. Specifications for county lots may be picked up in the Commissioners' office, 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E, Paulding, OH, or online at www.paullingcountycommissioners.com. The proposal shall be marked "2026 Paulding County Courthouse Mowing, Trimming and Ground Maintenance" and addressed to the Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The proposal must be received at the office of the Board of County Commissioners no later than 9:00 a.m. on the 29th day of December, 2025. The Board of County Commissioners' office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Board of County Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any and all proposals. Should you have any questions, please contact the Paulding County Commissioners' Office at 419-399-8215.

HEATHER BARNHOUSE, CLERK
BY ORDER BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
MIKE WEIBLE
MARK HOLTSBERRY
LISA MCCLURE

Paulding County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

LEGAL NOTICE

CI 25 084

The State Bank & Trust Company

-VS-

Justice M J Clark, et al.

Justice M. J. Clark and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Justice M. J. Clark, whose last place of residence is 101 W. Canal Street, Antwerp, OH 45813, will take notice that May 19, 2025, a Complaint was filed in the matter of The State Bank & Trust Company v. Justice M J Clark, et al., Case No. CI 25 084, in the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding County, Ohio, 115 N. Williams St., # 201, Paulding, OH 45879, seeking foreclosure and alleging that the Defendants, Justice M. J. Clark and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Justice M. J. Clark is unknown to the Plaintiff and have or may claim to have an interest in the real estate located at 101 W. Canal Street, Antwerp, OH 45813 and known as Parcel Number 12-26S-032-00, 12-26S-034-00 & 12-26S-043-01. A complete legal description of the property may be obtained from the Paulding County Auditor's Office, located at 115 N. Williams St., # 101, Paulding, OH 45879.

You are required to answer the

FILED IN
Common Pleas Court
Paulding County, Ohio
Time _____ M

NOV 21 2025

SARAH JO HARPEL
CLERK

publication within 28 days after the last publication of this Notice, which will be published once per week for three consecutive weeks, and the last publication will be made on December 29, 2025.

In the case of your failure to answer or respond as permitted by the Ohio Civil Rules within the time stated, a judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

ALBERTSON LAW PARTNERS OHIO, LLC
BY: F. Peter Costello, #0076112
Mark R. Lembright, #0041545
F. Peter Costello, #0073329
Matthew I. McKelvey, #0074762
Counsel for Plaintiff
4807 Rockside Road, Ste. 200
Independence, OH 44131
(216) 588-1500
(216) 771-4334-fax
Ohcontact@law.net
24-007600

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

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

1. N. 180°35'07" 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, and/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

Sarah Jo Harpel
Clerk

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

PAULDING ELEMENTARY MINDSET MARVELS



November Mindset Marvels have shown others how to "Live to Give".
Pictured above are (bottom row, l-r): Isabella Fuentes, Nova Grubb, Aubree Thompson, Scarlett Simonin, McKenzie Steel, and Olivia Dermon; (middle row, l-r): Ella Hale, Sebastian Houck, Dilan Calixto Gutierrez, Valentina Tellez-Munoz, and Kraeton Tempel; (top row, l-r): Mena Mullins, Jacob Shaffer, Adeline Brown, Harper Snyder, Leo Hernandez-Reyes, and Gunner Borkosky. Not pictured: Odie Kauser

PAULDING COUNTY BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL CELEBRATES SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF STNA TRAINING PROGRAM

The Paulding County Business Advisory Council (BAC), in partnership with Vantage Career Center, Baughman Tile, and the Paulding County Economic Development Office, proudly announces the successful completion of a recent State Tested Nursing Assistant (STNA) training program for local students.

The ongoing need for STNA-certified employees has been highlighted at sev-

eral BAC meetings. In response to this demand—and with strong student interest—the BAC collaborated with Vantage Career Center to create a pathway for Paulding County students to earn their STNA certification.

Cost initially posed a challenge. Through continued discussion, Vantage Career Center stepped forward with the majority of the sponsorship, leaving only a small funding gap. Recognizing the importance of strengthening the county's workforce, "Vantage Career Center's Adult Education is proud to partner with Paulding County Economic De-

velopment to prepare graduates for healthcare careers and strengthen our local workforce." – Vantages Adult Education Director, Angie Fahy.

Baughman Tile Company—despite being a manufacturing business outside the healthcare sector—generously contributed the remaining support needed to fully fund the program. Their commitment reflects the BAC's broader mission of improving Paulding County's workforce across all industries.

With full sponsorship secured, students received high-quality training that prepares them for meaning-

ful careers in the healthcare field. The program demonstrates a strong commitment to workforce development, student opportunity, and community collaboration.

Four students successfully completed the course, with three already having passed their certification exam and officially earning their STNA credential. "My class went wonderful and I passed my test! I am now working at PCH as a CNA/PRN. I appreciate all the help y'all gave me and the opportunities I had because of y'all!" – PC student who attended this program.

This inaugural cohort marks an important milestone, giving these students a valuable head start on their future careers while helping meet the region's growing demand for skilled nursing assistants.

"This program is a great example of how local businesses and educational institutions can come together to invest in our youth and strengthen our community," said Jessica Stechschulte, Paulding County Economic Development Administrator. "We are proud of these students and excited about the opportunities this program will continue to provide. Our Paulding County BAC team continues to support the future growth of our county."

The BAC team looks forward to expanding the STNA program—and exploring additional in-demand training opportunities—in the coming years, offering more students the chance to pursue local careers while supporting the region's workforce needs.

ONEOHIO UNVEILS \$45M GRANT OPPORTUNITY TO ADVANCE RECOVERY AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The OneOhio Recovery Foundation today announced a new statewide grant opportunity making up to \$45.7 million available to support prevention, treatment and recovery. Organizations working to address substance use disorder are invited to prepare for the upcoming Funding Inquiry window, which opens on Wednesday, January 14. The full Regional Grant Cycle 2 Request for Proposals is available on the grant headquarters webpage at OneOhioFoundation.com/Grants.

"This next round of grants builds on the momentum of our first cycle and represents another powerful opportunity for Ohioans to come together and create lasting change," said OneOhio Executive Director Alisha Nelson. "With these investments, we can expand hope, strengthen recovery, and equip local organizations with the tools they need to help more individuals and families heal."

To support applicants throughout the grant process, the Foundation will host multiple webinars, including the first of two Grant Cycle 2 RFP Overview sessions on December 16. Details about all upcoming events will be posted on the Foundation's website. Among key dates for applicants to consider:

- December 10, 2025: Regional Grant Cycle 2 RFP posted
- January 14, 2026: Re-

PJHS POSITIVE PANTHER



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School.

Shown in the picture above are (l-r) Larry Gutierrez-Cortes (Grade 8), Olga Padilla (Grade 7), and Zarla Ross (Grade 6).

PJHS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School.

Shown in the picture are (l-r) Connor Manz (Grade 7), Anna Baughman (Grade 8), and Carter Crossland (Grade 6).

Your customers need you as much as you need them.

NOW is the time to show them you're here.

SAVE ON ADVERTISEMENT! *COUPON*

10% OFF
4IN OR LARGER AD
OR
20% OFF
12IN OR LARGER AD

Coupon valid for advertisement in The West Bend News. One WEEK only. Ex. Date: 1/31/2026
Deadlines for newspaper ads are Thursdays at 5PM for the following Monday's paper.



419-258-2000

INFO@WESTBENDPRINTING.COM
101 N. MAIN STREET, ANTWERP, OH

DERCK'S LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

15193 Rd. 45
Antwerp, Ohio 45813
419-506-1902

MULCH COLORS:
Red, Brown and Black
Black Dirt, Small Gravel and River Rock
Call for Special Orders

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





HUSTED LEADS BILL TO INTEGRATE AI TALENT IN FEDERAL WORKFORCE

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) joined Sen. Andy Kim (D-N.J.) in introducing the bipartisan AI Talent Act. This bill would create an artificial intelligence (AI) and tech talent team within the U.S. Office of Personnel Management to provide guidance in hiring experts in AI to join federal agencies. The hiring team would be composed of recruiters and assessment and subject matter experts who would support the agency in hiring quality talent.

Reps. Sara Jacobs (D-Calif.), Jay Obernolte (R-Calif.), Pat Fallon (R-Texas) and Shontel Brown (D-Ohio) introduced the companion version of the AI Talent Act in the House of Representatives.

"AI will dominate the technology landscape of the future, and our country must be prepared. To win the AI race, we need every part of our government to understand and use this technology effectively. This bill will bring critical AI expertise into federal agencies, and I'm proud to lead it to make sure we're hiring for the future," said Husted.

"We should have strong bipartisan support for the importance of recruiting talent in government and uplifting the next generation of public servants. By providing specialized tools to recruit for expertise in emerging technologies like AI, this legislation can make us more competitive and build a well-equipped federal workforce to leverage AI for a more secure and stable future," said Kim.

"The United States can't fully deliver on its national security mission, lead in responsible AI, and compete in the AI race if our federal agencies don't have the talent to meet this moment. Right now, the government is competing with the private sector, which can hire faster and pay more, leaving critical roles unfilled and U.S. potential untapped. That's why I'm

proud to introduce the bipartisan and bicameral AI Talent Act to modernize hiring, recruit and retain top technical experts into public service, and guarantee the United States has the in-house capabilities to innovate safely, protect our country, and deliver for the American people," said Jacobs.

"Modernizing the way our government hires technical talent is essential to America's competitiveness and national security. The AI Talent Act gives federal agencies the tools they need to recruit experts with real, demonstrated skills so we can responsibly adopt AI and strengthen mission delivery across government. This bipartisan bill helps ensure the United States continues to lead the world in innovation by bringing the best equipped people into public service at the right time," said Obernolte.

"America's strength has always come from leading the world in innovation and technology. To keep that edge and protect our national security, we must have the world's best AI talent. Right now, an outdated, bureaucratic hiring system is pushing that talent elsewhere. The AI Talent Act fixes this so that we can recruit, retain, and deploy innovators who will ensure that our nation remains the global leader in AI for decades to come and can compete in the face of evolving technological threats," said Fallon.

"It's past time to modernize the federal government's hiring process so we bring in the skilled workers needed to stay competitive in fast-growing fields like Artificial Intelligence. I am proud to co-lead this bipartisan bill that will help ensure AI is used responsibly throughout government and strengthen U.S. leadership in the technologies of the future," said Brown.

This bill builds on Husted's work to leverage AI for America's benefit. He recently introduced the RAISE Act, the bill would add AI and technology literacy to the subjects that states may establish standards for in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Leveraging AI increases productivity in the classroom and workplace. Husted also introduced a bill to streamline the mammoth Code of Federal Regulations by using an AI tool to identify redundant and outdated rules. The bill is based on the success that Ohio has had using an AI tool to locate and remove outdated, conflicting or redundant content in the state code. As a result, the state is on the road to shaving 5 million unnecessary words from its 17-million-word code, saving an estimated \$44 million in taxpayer dollars and tens of thousands of manhours.

Classified Ads

Sell it in the Classifieds!

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

TIMBER WANTED: Specializing in walnut trees, white oak trees and hardwood trees. Buyer of standing timber. Call Gary Keegan 517-296-4601

12-1p

LOG GRAPPLE FOR SALE: Titan Attachments Grapple for tractor or skid steer. Hydraulic cylinder, 48". Move up to 10' logs, trees, brush, etc. Lightly used, **PRICE REDUCED \$200**, NOW \$1200, 419-258-0127

MOWER LIFT FOR SALE: Huskee HZR350 Lift for riding/zero turn lawn mowers. \$650bo. Includes manual and drilling adapter. Call 419-258-0127

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

(Continued from Page 3)

enforcement responsibilities. Council and administration will review whether future enforcement should fall under a dedicated zoning inspector or a code enforcement officer potentially aligned with the police department.

Under new business, council discussed concerns about snow removal timing following recent winter storms, noting that a major water break during the snowfall affected the street crew's response time. The village continues to conduct its own plowing but will evaluate equipment and service options moving forward. A resident also requested pedestrian crossing signage in areas where new crosswalk striping has been installed; the village will review placement and requirements with ODOT and county partners. Additional discussion involved the possibility of adding electrical outlets near the tennis and pickleball courts for community events; options will be explored after confirmation of utility ownership.

Council also reviewed renewal levels for its annual support of the Paulding County Economic Development office. On a motion, the village elected to remain at the Platinum sponsorship level for 2026.

Fiscal Officer Kevin Hornish reported that removing Medicare-eligible employees from the village's group health plan resulted in a \$40,627 reduction in premiums. After accounting for the increased HRA contributions, the village still achieved a net savings of more than \$20,000.

Mayor's Court for November reported \$1,172 to the village, \$450 to the state, and \$18 to the indigent driver fund, for a total of \$1,640.

At the end of the meeting, Mayor Jan Reeb announced her retirement effective December 31, 2025, marking the close of more than three decades of service—30 years as a council member and eight years as mayor. Reeb expressed gratitude to council, staff, and the community, noting that health considerations

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

DESIGN - PRINT - ADVERTISE: Books, Calendars, Cards – West Bend Printing can get you what you need FAST! 419-258-2000.

THE HEALING HEARTH by Angel: Salves, Soaps, Beard Oils, Luffa scrubbies PLUS more. Text 419-258-0656 for more info.

FOR SALE: Just in time for Christmas. 2 handcrafted, wooden rocking horses. Medium and small sizes. Call now (no text): 567-380-4135. 2 for 1 price, buy now or will separate. 50p

and the desire for rest guided her decision. By operation of law, Council President Pro Tem Bryan Smith will assume the role of mayor on January 1. Council members offered remarks of appreciation for Mayor Reeb's leadership and longtime dedication to the village. Reeb thanked council for their teamwork and support, expressing confidence in the future direction of Antwerp.

Council adjourned after a motion and vote.

GOV. BRAUN, INDOT PRESENT COMMUNITY CROSSINGS AWARDS IN DELPHI

Gov. Mike Braun, Secretary of Transportation and Infrastructure Matt Ubelhor and INDOT Commissioner Lyndsay Quist today joined local officials from across northwest Indiana in Delphi to present awards for INDOT's Community Crossings Matching Grant program. \$100 million in state matching funds were announced for 191 Indiana cities, towns, and counties.

"When we invest in roads and bridges through these Community Crossings grants, we're helping communities attract new jobs, support Main Street businesses, and enhance quality of life for Hoosier families," said Gov. Braun. "I'm grateful for the strong partnerships with our local leaders who are putting these dollars to work building a better Indiana."

Communities submitted applications during a call for projects in October. Funding for Community Crossings comes from the state's local road and bridge matching grant fund. The program has provided more than \$2 billion for local road improvement projects since its inception in 2016.

"Community Crossings has benefitted nearly every city, town and county in the state of Indiana at least once," said Secretary Ubelhor. "Projects range from chip and crack sealing to paving to bridge rehabilitation and replacement on local roads."

The Indiana General Assembly identified long-term funding for Community Crossings as part of House Enrolled Act 1002, passed in 2017. Following changes outlined during the 2025 legislative session, the program cap is now set at \$100 million per year, and the annual cap is reduced to \$1 million per local unit of government per state fiscal year. An additional change is a reduced local match for smaller communities. Starting in FY 2027, a single call for projects will occur each July.

INNOVATIONS IN AGRICULTURE

On December 3rd, several Ohio speakers discussed weather, Artificial Intelligence (AI) in agriculture, and precision soil sampling at the Ohio No-Till conference, Der Dutchman, Plain City Ohio. Here are their comments.

First, Dr Vinayak Shedekar, OSU Ohio Drainage Management specialist spoke about weather, mainly drought and excess water. Nationally based on insurance claims; drought/dry weather cost farmers about \$90 billion/year (43% of total) followed by excess water \$52 billion (25%) with other insurance claims around \$22 billion/yr (32%). Water is one of the most limiting factors to obtaining high crop yields. In Ohio, typically 70% of water related crop losses are due to excess water with 30% due to drought. Recently though, drought has been a bigger concern. Drought may cut corn yields 40 bushel/acre or more while typically too much water historically reduces corn yields 20 bushel or more.

Corn needs about 28 inches of rain during the growing season (Late April to Late September). Typically, during the winter and early spring, farmers get too much water followed by too little in late spring, summer, and fall. July and August typically have a water deficit of 3.6-4.0 inches. The best way to make up that deficit is with good soil structure and high soil organic matter (SOM) levels. A farmer shared that he planted through a long-term undisturbed soil that was part of a waterway and at harvest, due to the good soil structure and high SOM levels, his yield monitor jumped to 359 corn bushels/acre.

Dr. Scot Schearer, OSU Department Chair for FASE talked about how AI. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing how farmers apply herbicides, especially post emergence, reducing herbicide usage 60-70% by spot spraying. AI is identifying nutrient deficiencies, crop diseases through visual images and helping farmers make better decisions to lower fuel costs. Two companies, Bosch & BASF (a herbicide company) have teamed up to use less herbicides which is safer for the environment. BASF is pushing services to make up the difference and also raising prices. John Deere is investing heavily in corn-soybean-wheat- and cotton AI research. Today with image collection, 6 to 7 terra bytes of information can be collected daily. A typical phone collects 1 terra byte of data

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

(one trillion data points).

Dr Schearer says the era of large machines is starting to peak and go the other way. Small autonomous equipment have much lower labor costs and can operate 24 hours per day. Autonomous (self-driving) sprayers are 300# of efficiency and simplicity according to Dr. Schearer. About 30% of all fungicides on wheat this year was applied with drones. Dr. Schearer's son lost his AI job to another farm company. He was reluctant to working on a farm in California until he discovered that this farm is a \$7 billion dollar business producing nearly all the lettuce in California. Jobs will change but people can adapt to doing different work; especially work that computers, robots and drones can do better that is repetitive and back breaking.

Dr. Schearer says all farmers can use AI to change agriculture. On CHAT ID, farmers can take a picture of a yellow soybean plant and CHAT ID will describe the symptoms, tell you the problem, and offer a solution. Example: Your soybeans have yellowing between the veins and it occurs on the younger leaves. This indicates manganese, iron, and sulfur deficiencies and early signs of SDS (Sudden Death Symptoms). The program then recommends various sprays and solutions, the cost, along with timing for best results.

The third speaker was Dave Scheiderer with Integrated Ag Services (IAS) who talked about using precision soil sampling to reduce input costs and increase crop yields. IAS has a machine that can take 1 sample about every 15 seconds or every 100 to 150 feet in the field. They are grid soil sampling on 1/8 up to 2.5-acre grids. They find 1-acre grids or smaller give the best results, depending upon the nutrient. They take samples at precise depths because nutrient variability decreases greatly with depth. This reduces variability in their results. Mostly they take 4-inch samples and they often sample 2X a year. The biggest returns come from adjusting pH (lime applications) and potassium (K) soil nutrient levels.

Sampling one acre costs \$11/A per year and takes 40# of K or 500# of lime savings to pay for itself. K varies the most ranging from 0-12% variability. K soil levels are highly influenced by soil texture (sand/silt/clay levels), soil compaction, soil health & biology, weather (how dry or wet), existing soil nutrient levels, and other factors. By sampling frequently and over small grids, they increase the accuracy of their data and recommendations.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email:
InnovativeAssemblySvc@outlook.com
Family owned business located in Antwerp, Ohio looking for general labor associates to do light manufacturing and assembly. Will provide on the job training. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:00 am-1:30 pm. Competitive wages, vacation and personal leave after probationary period.

To apply contact us via phone or email

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. For questions, please contact the Village Administrator 419-542-6138 ext.6.

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



December 1975: New red bells and garland now adorn the county courthouse, thanks to Paulding Chamber of Commerce. Four lighted strings reach from the dome to the four corners of the square. (The above photo was taken by the author in 1995.)

By: MELINDA KRICK
25 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Progress, Dec. 13, 2000:

A new industry that could become the county's largest employer will hold its official groundbreaking next week. Alex Products Inc. plans to expand its operations by leasing a 50,000-square-foot production facility in Paulding.

Junior Fair Board members decorate the horse show arena for the second annual drive-through Christmas light display fundraiser.

The public was invited to the first Christmas tree lighting at Paulding County Hospital. The PHS swing choir entertained the crowd before the ceremony.

Board members and employees at the PC Workshop held a groundbreaking ceremony. Construction is scheduled to begin soon with an estimated completion date of July 1, 2001.

50 Years Ago
From the Paulding Progress, Dec. 17, 1975:

Twenty-five members of the Oakwood Jaycees received their charter pins. David Dangler received his president's pin and accepted the charter from the State of Ohio and the U.S. Jaycees. Another was accepted by the charter members to be signed and displayed in the Jaycee hall.

Paulding Village has begun to look a lot like Christmas with the new red bells and garland and the other decorations aglow. Most Paulding stores are open evenings now until Christmas Eve, when most will close at 5:30 p.m.

County Engineer Chuck Dunakin is retiring after serving 27 years. As a state highway department employee, he built the grades for Highway 24 in 1931, and for 127 in 1932. Dan Stouffer is to take over Mr. Dunakin's duties in the engineer's office in January.

For a nostalgic look backward to a gentler time, a holiday season of the simple, uncommercialized type, plan to visit historic St. Paul's Church the afternoon of Dec. 21. A singalong will be held there with candlelight and beautiful seasonal decorations. Leading the singing will be the Rev. Charles Bradford of the Antwerp Methodist Church and playing the antique church organ will be Mable Linn. All arrangements are being handled by Mrs. Ruth Alice Buehler.

100 Years Ago
From the Paulding Democrat, Dec. 17, 1925:

A fire originating between the roof and ceiling of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Paulding broke out last Sunday morning, burning the roof and interior of the main part of the building, leaving the rear of the building, including the altars and the front side walls, when it was finally brought under control by the valiant efforts of the fire department. Rev. Straub, with members of the church and other citizens, were removing the statuary and other valuable property, all of which, with a few exceptions, including the stations, was saved. The building, a frame structure built in 1894 on the east

side of North Williams Street near Possum Run, was moved to its present location in 1901. The loss is estimated at about \$10,000.

From the Paulding County Republican, Dec. 17, 1925:

Mr. And Mrs. Ersel Walley, J.H. Edwards and Florence Andrews were the county's representatives in the crowd of 3,000 farmers who heard President Coolidge speak at the annual meeting of the American Farm Bureau Federation in Chicago last week.

The wheat is looking fine and beet harvesting is nearly through. Corn shucking seems to be going well, although it would go a lot better if the ground was frozen.

The Postmaster General has issued orders to postmasters throughout the country that their offices will be closed all day Christmas, except for the dispatch of special delivery letters and parcels and special handling letters and parcels.

150 Years Ago
From the Paulding Democrat, Dec. 23, 1875:

The boys were having a fine time skating on the creek last Sunday.

The ice crop was almost ripe but the warm weather of the last few days has about cooked it.

Baldwin, the druggist, has placed a street lamp in front of his store, as also have Messrs. Powell and Savage in front of their new store rooms.

An attempt was made by a couple of the prisoners of the county jail to burn out Thursday night, but the fire was discovered before any harm was done. The chappies had the pleasure of wearing jewelry on their ankles for a couple of days.

Christmas tree for all the children of Paulding town and vicinity that will attend at the Methodist Episcopal Church Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, 1875.

PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at MagPie Restaurant, SR 18, Hicksville, OH. Speaker will be Hicksville Chief of Police sharing information on scams and other topics of interest to seniors. At 12:30 a

HICKSVILLE SCHOOLS RECEIVES \$250,000 GRANT FROM DON WOOD FOUNDATION TO EXPAND CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION



Pictured is Hicksville CTE teacher Mr. Ferrell and several senior CTE students.

Hicksville, OH - Hicksville Schools is proud to announce that the district has been awarded more than \$250,000 from the Don Wood Foundation of Fort Wayne, Indiana. This transformational investment will significantly expand Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities for students.

The competitive grant was written and led by CTE Teacher Mr. Nathan Ferrell, whose vision and dedication helped secure the funding for the district and community. The award will allow the school district to purchase state-of-the-art career tech equipment, including advanced robotics, precision manufacturing tools, and emerging technology learning systems.

"These resources will elevate what we are able to offer our students and help prepare them for high-demand careers across our region," said Mr. Ferrell.

High School Principal Mr. Aaron Hylander added, "This award creates opportunities that will benefit students for years to come. We are thankful for the Don Wood Foundation and for Mr. Ferrell's initiative in securing these resources. It is a tremendous win for our students."

"We are delighted to invest in school districts eager to look toward preparing students with skills for careers of the future," said Laura Macknick, president & CEO, Don Wood Foundation. "We are encouraged by Hicksville's enthusiasm, and we look forward to witnessing their students thrive."

The new equipment will provide students with:

- Real-world skills aligned with workforce needs
- Access to high-tech tools used by industry partners
- Opportunities to explore engineering, robotics, manufacturing, and design
- A competitive advantage

for college, apprenticeships, or technical careers

ABOUT THE DON WOOD FOUNDATION
The Don Wood Foundation is a private foundation established in 2018 by Don Wood, founder of 80/20, Inc., that serves and supports leadership development, an entrepreneurial mindset, and future-ready workers with the potential to create and sustain opportunities in advanced manufacturing. The Foundation provides investments to grant partners from nonprofits and educational institutions, in addition to offering guidance through community research and intentional convenings. This guidance fosters a diverse workforce through exposure, education, training, and the development of strong communities that advance the manufacturing sector.

For more information about the Foundation's programs and initiatives, visit donwoodfoundation.org.

light lunch will be served. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

PROBATE JUDGE SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR PC PARK DISTRICT

Paulding County Probate Court Judge Harvey Hyman seeks applicants willing to serve on the Paulding County Park Board. The appointment will be for a three-year term beginning on January 1, 2026, and ending on December 31, 2028.

The Paulding County Park District operates six parks and is currently in Phase 1 of the Paulding County Trail Project. Their Mission Statement is to create, enhance, and protect the natural and cultural resources of Paulding County, to foster respect and stewardship of these resources, while providing quality outdoor recreational opportunities for Paulding County Citizens. You can read more about the Paulding County Park District on their website: pauldingohparks.com

Individuals interested in serving on the board must bring a letter of interest to the Probate Court, 115 N.

Williams St., Suite 202, Paulding, OH 45879 or contact the Probate Court (419) 399-8256, before 4:00 p.m. December 19, 2025.

RED CROSS DECEMBER BLOOD DRIVE GARNERS 36 UNITS

The most recent Red Cross blood bank, held December 4th at First Church of Christ in Hicksville, garnered 36 units of vitally needed blood. Red Cross Ambassador Zelda Zimmerman was pleased that so many people turned out on a cold day to donate.

Assisting the Red Cross crew were members of the Rotary Club for setup and tear down and providing the food for the canteen. Alice Breidenbaugh, Sara Green and Marilyn Guilford prepared the sandwiches and cookies came from the Amish community. Susan Guilford and Colleen Richter manned the registration table.

The next blood drive is set for February 19th. PLEASE schedule an appointment to donate at redcrossblood.org. Blood is urgently needed and can only come from one place - YOU!

2nd Annual Christmas Dinner On Us!

The holiday season can often cast a shadow of financial strain over many families. With hearts full of compassion, we are eager to lighten that load and extend our helping hands.

Join us on Saturday, December 20, for a delightful drive-thru dinner pickup at Den Herder Funeral Home beginning at 10:00 am. We will be joyfully distributing 150 complete Christmas dinners to families in need of a little extra support. No need to step out of your vehicle, and no registration required—just come as you are!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20TH 10:00 AM

1000 W Wayne St., Paulding, OH 45879

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

❄️ In the joyous spirit of the season, the **Antwerp Community Band** invites the West Bend News' readers to its annual Christmas concert, to be presented at **7:30 pm** on **Thursday, December 18, 2025**, at the Huber Opera House in Hicksville, Ohio.

❄️ Some selections from the program: music from "The Polar Express", "Grown-up Christmas List", "Candlelight Carol", and "Sweet Sounds of Christmas". There is no charge for admission. Please join us for a relaxing evening of music!