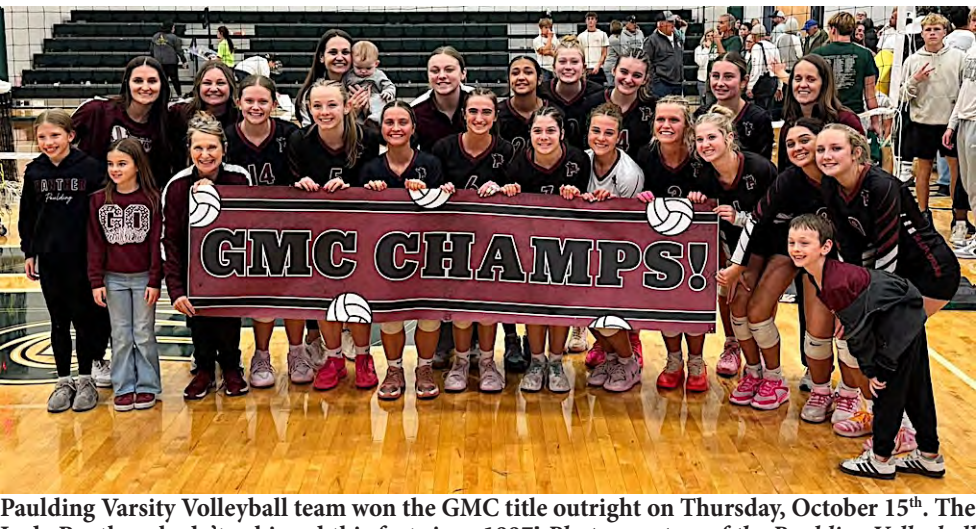
The West Bend News

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 42 | Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana | MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026

HISTORIC NIGHT! PAULDING OUTLASTS TINORA IN FIVE-SET THRILLER TO CLAIM FIRST CONFERENCE TITLE SINCE 1997



Paulding Varsity Volleyball team won the GMC title outright on Thursday, October 15th. The Lady Panthers hadn't achieved this feat since 1997! *Photo courtesy of the Paulding Volleyball Facebook page.*

PAULDING – History was made Thursday, October 15, as the Paulding Lady Panthers battled through their toughest volleyball match of the season to defeat the Tinora Lady Rams in a thrilling five-set showdown, securing the outright Green Meadows Conference championship for the first time in nearly three decades.

The Lady Panthers demonstrated tremendous determination and resilience, overcoming a 2-1 deficit to claim the victory by scores of 25-20, 22-25, 16-25, 25-15 and 15-12.

The victory capped an undefeated 7-0 run through GMC competition and improved Paulding's remarkable overall record to 21-1.

The championship marks a historic milestone for the program, as it is the Lady Panthers' first conference volleyball title since 1997, when Paulding captured the Northwest Conference championship outright.

Thursday's showdown

(Continued on Page 6)

PAULDING PUTNAM GROWS TEAM AS FIBER & ELECTRIC SERVICES EXPAND

Paulding Putnam is welcoming two new members of its management team: Erika Willitzer, Vice President of Strategic Engagement and External Affairs, and Bobby Armentrout, Sr. Director of Technology and Network Operations. Their arrival caps a year of hiring that has added five more employees across the cooperative.

The new team members come as Paulding Putnam expands on two fronts: electric and fiber service. The co-op has constructed more than 1,000 miles of mainline fiber across Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert counties in Ohio and has begun building in Allen County, Indiana. At the same time, it continues to deliver reliable electric service to nearly 14,000 members across seven counties in northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana, as it has since 1935.



Bobby Armentrout



Erika Willitzer

The new hires are also part of Paulding Putnam's succession planning ahead of a leadership transition in January 2027, when General Manager and CEO Randy Price retires and Chief Operating Officer Nick Eltzroth becomes the cooperative's next CEO.

"Every person we've added

(Continued on Page 4)

LIFEWISE ACADEMY TO HOST FALL FESTIVAL

LifeWise Academy in Antwerp, Ohio, will host a Fall Festival on November 7th 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the MAC Gym to benefit students attending LifeWise Antwerp. This event is open to the public and will provide information for parents interested in enrolling their children while also raising funds to support students attending LifeWise Academy Antwerp this year.

"We are excited to offer Bible-based character education to participating students at Antwerp and look forward to working with our community to make it a success," said Traci Koenig, LifeWise Academy Antwerp Director.

"As a released time religion instruction program, all our leadership board members, volunteers and funding come from individuals in the community and local businesses. Would you please consider partnering with us by sponsoring the event, making a donation to the program or joining the LifeWise Antwerp Volunteer Team. The program's biggest need right now, is a 15 passenger mini-bus that will be used to transport the students to and from the LifeWise classroom. We are hoping to raise $35,000 to purchase a used bus."

The LifeWise Antwerp Fall Festival will be held November 7th at the MAC Gym (204 Archer Drive) 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please join us for a bounce house, games, activities, crafts, food and more! Admission, all games, activities, crafts and food will be available for a free will donation.

LifeWise lesson, part of the school's special rotation, teach the Bible chronologically. Each lesson connects a Bible passage to a relevant character trait that students are encour-

(Continued on Page 3)



Paulding County History Museum is taking orders for a special reprint of a hard-to-find 1882 county history book. Museum volunteer Melinda Krick edited the reprint and included an index, 1880s photos and other bonus material.

MUSEUM RELEASES REPRINT OF RARE 1882 PAULDING COUNTY HISTORY

Melinda Krick has a heart for preserving local history. Thanks to her, soon you will have the opportunity to place an important volume of Paulding County history on your bookshelf.

The Historical Hand-Atlas 1882 Illustrated and History of Paulding County, Ohio is now available for presale, with delivery in November, just in time for Christmas.

Only a few copies of the original over-sized book—

(Continued on Page 8)

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
Eichers Woodworking	8
Five Star Const	1
Front Porch Fuel	1
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Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

October 20

- Halloween Fun w/ WT Art Club @ Payne Library, 3-5p

October 21

- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a

October 24

- Rock Deco Podge Painting @ Antwerp Library, 11a
- Women's Retreat @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 9a-1p
- Friends of DPL Fall Book Sale @ Northtowne Mall, Defiance, 10a-5p

October 25

- Trick or Treat @ Sherwood Village, 3-4:30p

October 27

- Haunted Library Party @ Paulding Library, 6:30p
- Triple P Positive Parenting Program @ PCB of DD, 5:30-7p
- Trunk or Treat @ Foundations Clubhouse, Paulding, 5:30-7p
- Girl Scout Info Meeting @ Antwerp School, 6p

October 29

- Trick or Treat @ Ney Village, 6-7p
- Trick or Treat @ Defiance, 6-7:30p

October 31

- Antwerp Village Halloween: Parade, 2:30p, Costume Judging, 3p Trick or Treat, 5-6:30p
- Payne Village Halloween: Trick or Treat, 4-6:30p
- Trunk or Treat On the Corner, Grover Hill, 4-6p;

WMYW 102.7 PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

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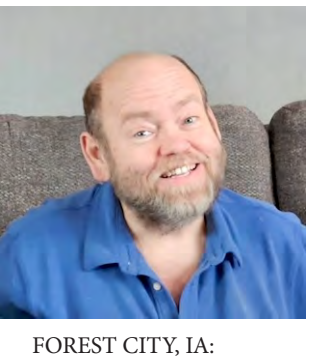
OBITUARIES



FOREST CITY, IA:

Dr. Robert E. AuFrance, 57, of Forest City, Iowa, entered the gates of Heaven on Friday, October 9, 2026. He was born December 2, 1968 to Larry and Vicki (Fulmer) AuFrance. Dr. AuFrance, known as Bob to all, was a writer, scholar, director, mentor, collector, musician, son, brother, and friend. Though Bob never had any children of his own, he had many "kids" over the course of his long career teaching at the college level.

Bob's passion was his students - giving a chance to those that otherwise would not have had the opportunity. Dr. AuFrance was in his 25th year at Waldorf University as the Dean of Fine Arts, Department Chair, Professor of Theatre, and Playwright-in-Residence. He was currently directing and teaching the acting, directing, playwriting, theatre histories, theatre education pedagogy and film studies tracks for the Theatre Department. He was heading the Artistic Expression program. Bob also served as Waldorf University's playwright, having had ten of his plays produced at Waldorf.

Additionally, his works have been presented on three continents. Dr. AuFrance hosted playwriting workshops with middle and high school students across the Midwest and had won several writing awards (including being a two time KCACTF, and Region V winner of the Mark David Cohen National Playwriting Award). Bob created the Musical Theatre Major; co-created the "24 Hour Theatre Festival" and the college's traveling theatre troupe; established the annual "Haunted House Food Drive", was the originator of the "Loose Change" program, and was the founder and advisor for Waldorf's chapter of Alpha Psi Omega (the honorary theatre fraternity). Dr. AuFrance was honored by his students for his service to the department when they named the black box theatre "The B.O.B." in 2011. In that same year, he was recognized by Waldorf College by being presented the Outstanding Faculty Trustee's Award.

Previously, he had worked at Albion College, Albion, MI; University of Missouri, Columbia, MO; and Kent State University, Kent, OH. It was at the University of Missouri where Dr. AuFrance completed his Ph.D. in playwrighting and theatre history in 2004. In 2016, Dr. AuFrance was inducted into Paulding Exempted Village Schools Academic Hall of Fame.

Bob read his Bible from cover to cover, faithfully. Once he finished, he would restart. He even traveled with it. Though his time on Earth was short, he knew his eternal destination was forever. His family will take comfort in knowing that they will see him again.

Surviving is his mother, Vicki; sister, Tami; step-father, Charlie Mewhorter; and a special aunt, LaDonna Carpenter; all of Oakwood. Other survivors include uncles, Tom (Linda) Fulmer, New Bavaria, OH, and Nickie (Linda) Fulmer, Indiana, many cousins, and friends. Preceding him in death were his father; brother, Andy; uncle, Bill Carpenter; uncle and aunt James and Marie Fulmer; paternal grandparents, Louis and Dorothy AuFrance; and maternal grandparents Charles (Ray) and Alice Fulmer.

Services will be held on Saturday, October 17, 2026 at 11 a.m. at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH, with Pastor Jim Hall officiating with one hour visitation prior to services. Burial will be in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Jackson Township, Paulding, OH. Visitation is from 4-8 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH.

Preferred memorials are to American Diabetes Association or Waldorf University Theatre Department, Forest City, IA.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.



PAULDING, OH:

Alice Gerber graduated unto the Heavens on October 14, 2026. She was born in Paulding, Ohio on February 23, 1954. She was the daughter of Drs. Kirkwood A. and Edythe C. Pritchard MDs of Paulding. She married Ronald R. Gerber on October 25,1980 and gave birth to two daughters Audra L. Schoenauer (Scott Schoenauer) of Payne, OH and Susanne L. Sample (Walter Sample) Cincinnati, OH.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Ronald R. Gerber, and her boyfriend Ron Johnson. She left behind her children, and siblings: Laura Gibson Morrison of Butler, Ohio; Dr. Kirkwood A. Pritchard Jr. PhD (Marilyn Pritchard) of Elm Grove WI; and Dr. James C. Pritchard of Cincinnati, OH. She was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church in Paulding. She had nieces and nephews; Kirkwood Blaine Gibson; Kathryn Pritchard (Corwin Holzman) and son Gryffin, Sarah Pritchard, Emily Pritchard (Areli DeAnda), Ellie Pritchard and Anna Pritchard. Her grandson and granddaughter are Jack Schoenauer and Olivia Sample.

Alice attended Paulding High School and graduated from Paulding High School in spring of 1972. She continued her education at Taylor University in Upland, IN. She graduated in the spring of 1976. She began employment at the Paulding County Welfare Dept. which ultimately became the Paulding County Dept. of Job and Family Services in the Children Services unit. She retired after 32 yrs. of service. She continued to miss doing Foster and Adoptive home studies and finalizing adoptions after retirement.

Alice wrote a book about her mother and her painting friends who loved to paint! Through the historical articles of the Paulding Progress, stored on file at the Paulding County Library, she found many talented people who were also addicted to art. Her hope with the book was that other families would write their own stories about their parents and friends. Paulding County is truly blessed with artists in various areas.

Alice continued to dabble in art and poetry. She depended upon her faith. Through the grief of widowhood, she began a card ministry for those who fell into widowhood for many years. It then grew to families who lost young and adult children, as well as the loss of parents.

Alice's passing wish is that others look for the GOOD! And here are a few she loved:

"There is always MUCH to be grateful for."

"Revisit your Victories."

"Make your dominant thoughts be Positive!"

"Anchor yourself in Jesus."

"Be kinder than necessary."

"Do all the good you can." John Wesley

"Write in your heart that every day is the best day in years." Ralph Waldo Emerson "Faith does not eliminate questions. But Faith knows where to take them." Elisabeth Elliot.

I have received my diploma and graduated unto my Lord. Amen.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, October 22, 2026 at the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Paulding, OH. Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township.

Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH. There will also be visitation one hour prior to the services at church on Thursday.

Memorial donations may go toward St. Jude Children's Hospital

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.

PAULDING COUNTY DEMOCRATIC MEETING SUMMARY

The monthly meeting for the Paulding County Democrats was held at the Paulding Eagles on Tuesday, October 13th at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance began the well attended meeting. Next came the reading of the last month's meeting by Secretary Shari Baker followed the by the treasurer's report by Bill Thomas.

Old business consisted of the use of the newly reinvaded float. It was painted and set up to be used in area parades.

It will be used this fall as several people donated their time for driving and distributing candy.

Chairman George Geyer spoke to the Antwerp Rotary this month. He presented the current candidates for the upcoming elections and their platforms. Mr. Geyer stated that it was a very informative and respectful visit.

Several Democrats attended the Defiance meeting which featured Annette Blackwell, candidate for Ohio auditor last month. These audience members were impressed by her experience and thoroughly enjoyed speaking with her.

New business included purchasing candy to hand out at the upcoming events where the float will be used. A donation was made to cover the cost. Part of the candy will come from Spangler's Candy Company since the members deemed it important to support the area Ohio company.

Possible fundraisers were also discussed for the future.

The next Paulding County Democrat meeting wIll be Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Paulding Eagles.

CORRECTION: RESPECT FOR LIFE



Hicksville RTL Judy McCalla, Daniel E Thomas, Bishop of the Toledo Dioceses; and Rosanna Husted observing Respect Life Month this October.

In last week's West Bend News, in the Respect Life article, a caption had an incorrect name attached.

The photo and correct caption is above. WBN apologizes for this oversight

Scripture of the Week

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."

— Psalm 19:14

TO WALK IN FORGIVENESS



Father, in the Name of Jesus, I make a fresh commitment to You to live in peace and harmony, not only with the other brothers and sisters of the Body of Christ, but also with my friends, associates, neighbors, and family.

I let go of all bitterness, resentment, envying, strife, and unkindness in any form. I give no place to the devil in Jesus' Name. Now Father, I ask Your forgiveness. By faith, I receive it, having assurance that I am cleansed from all unrighteousness through Jesus Christ. I ask You to forgive and release all who have wronged and hurt me. I forgive and release them. Deal with them in your mercy and loving-kindness.

From this moment on, I purpose to walk in love, to seek peace, to live in agreement, and to conduct myself toward others in a manner that is pleasing to You. I know that I have right standing with you and Your ears are attentive to my prayers.

It is written in Your Word that the love of God has been poured forth into my heart by the Holy Ghost Who is given to me. I believe that love flows forth into the lives of everyone I know, that I may be filled with and abound in the fruits of righteousness which bring glory and honor unto You, Lord, in Jesus' Name. So be it! Amen.

Scripture References:

Romans 12:16-18, Mark 11:25, Romans 12:10, Ephesians 4:32, Philippians 2:2, 1 Peter 3:8,11,12, Ephesians 4:31, Colossians 1:10, Ephesians 4:27, Romans 5:5, Psalm 91:11, Philippians 1:9,11

Peace & love,

—Pastor Dwayne

LIFEWISE ACADEMY

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Teacher: "Did Adam or Eve disobey God?" Kindergartener: "Adam ignored God"

Kindergartener: "Don't listen to someone you know will not tell you the truth."

Kindergartener: "The snake did not have Jesus in his heart!"

1st Grader: "When you don't obey, you sin."

Teacher: "What does fast and pray mean?" 1st Grader: "Hurry up and pray"

Teacher: "What does the Holy Spirit do?" 1st Grader: "If we don't have the Holy Spirit in our heart, He can't help us."

Talking about baptism, 2nd Grader: "It's like a lizard shedding its skin and you get a new body."

Teacher: "When we die, we can go to Heaven and live with Jesus." 2nd Grader: "I want to do that."

2nd Grader: "If we can't see God, then how can He still give us a hug?"

Teacher: "God is always with us." 2nd Grader: "Sitting right here on our chair beside us!"

3rd Grader: "Goliath got killed with a stone right in the kisser."

Teacher: "Why did God take so long to keep His promise to Abram?" 3rd Grader: "Because it took that long to count the stars."

Teacher: "Can you imagine what a reunion it was between Jacob and his son Joseph?" 3rd Grader: "A flood of tears!"

Teacher: "Why was Moses not allowed to go into the Promised Land?" 3rd Grader: "Because the people rage-baited him and he hit the rock!"

Teacher: "Why was Jesus born?" 4th Grader 1: "To rescue us from sin." 4th Grader 2: "To protect us"

Teacher: "Even though there's a lot I don't know, Jesus gives me hope because?"

4th Grader 1: "He died for our sins" 5th Graders: "He died on the cross" "He lights my path" "He's always there"

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

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.



A PUMPKIN PARABLE

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

It's pumpkin time! Time for Jack-o-lanterns, visiting pumpkin patches, making favorite pumpkin desserts and hopefully some cooler weather.

Did you know there is a National Pumpkin Day? It is October 26 and that happens to be the day I was born. I don't recall ever having a pumpkin when growing up. With living in the country and being a religious family, Halloween wasn't one of our biggest holidays.

I do remember my little brother having some kind of mask that he wore around the house trying to scare us. Now, what was funny is when he looked real hard at that mask, it scared him so bad we had to hide it in a buffet drawer.

Pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, pumpkin cookies, pumpkin ice cream and pumpkin roll are holiday treats that a pumpkin provides.

So how did pumpkins and carving them on Halloween come about? According to Irish folklore there was a guy named Stingy Jack. It is said that Stingy Jack tricked old Satan multiple times and was so bad that God would not let him into Heaven and the Devil would not let him into H-ll either.

He was sent down into the cold dark night with just a single lighted coal to find his way. So Jack took a turnip, hollowed it out and placed the ember into the turnip therefore that story of Jack became Jacks Lantern or Jack O Lantern .

The Irish began to hollow out apples and turnips and made ugly faces with candles in them to scare off Stingy Jack.

My kids all loved pumpkin carving and if cooked right they liked the seeds which you can eat.

Did you know there is a spiritual example of a pumpkin? Jesus spoke in parables and so this story is like a parable.

We like to pick and choose our pumpkins, just as God chooses us.

Cutting off the top and removing the insides or guts of the pumpkin is like God cleaning us up and forgiving our sins.

Then cutting a big smile on



the pumpkin's face because we have become a new person.

Putting a light in the pumpkin is letting our lights shine and letting everyone know we are forgiven.

Now I know people will create all kinds of faces on pumpkins, have growing contests and pie baking contests.

Pumpkins have been around many, many years and the flavor we get really makes those pies taste good.

Do you have a special pumpkin recipe? Do you have a recipe for pumpkin seeds? What is the biggest pumpkin you ever grew? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

"He saved me" "He's God's son and God can do anything" "He cares about me" "He gave me life" "He saves us from sin" "He gives us eternal life" "He provides for us" "Simply because He loves me!"

Teacher: "What is the Great Commission?" 5th Grader: "To go into the world and preach the Gospel. Jesus will be with us."

6th Grader: "Lame as in legs don't work, not that it isn't cool."

Teacher: "Why did Go say all the things He created were good?" Jr High Student 1: "They didn't have sin." Jr High Student 2: "They glorified Him."

Teacher: "What is sin?" Jr High 1: "Something bad" Jr High 2: "something that takes you away from God" Jr High 3: "Doing what we think is best instead of what God says is best."

Teacher: "What does it mean to be made in the image of God?" Jr High: God made you just like He wanted, God does not make a mistake."

Teacher: "When have you felt convicted or 'pierced to the heart' about your own sin?" 7th Grader: "When I realized each lie brings me farther; I have tried my best to own up and pray for forgiveness."

Teacher: "What would it be like for you to own your mistakes and take responsibility for them?" 8th Grader: "It would be admitting when I'm wrong and trying to fix what I messed up."

DUPONT OHIO CELEBRATES HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE


Platted In 1877
Dupont Post Office Established
In 1864, Took Name From Admira

By Gladys Prowant
Crescent-News Correspondent
upont was for many years
largest town in Perry
hip, Putnam County. It
latted in 1877 by E. W.
, one of its outstanding
, and named in honor of
dmiral S. F. Dupont of
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in 1864. The mail
that time ran from
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s Dupont's first
th the postoffice
residence, which
the site where
e Brethren now

n the Dupont
Silas McClish,
Jack McClish
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1826 and
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VILLAGE BAND – Members of the Dupont Band as they looked in 1910. They are: From left – top, Charles Fritz, Bob Wilcox, Alfred Winchester, Clyde Eli Dimock, M. M. Nixon, E. H. Bird and W. R. Stateler. In 1915 there was a Grand

Thomas, Verne
Warren Myers
Harlen McClure
and Lloyd Frit

The small village of DuPont held a historical event recently at the Town Hall On display were several newspapers, photos and memorabilia from days past. The above photo is of the village post office and the Village Band as they appeared in 1910.



Pictured is Robert Heidennesher who has held the position of Mayor of DuPont for 45 years and is the longest serving mayor in the State of Ohio

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE?

What would it take for you to become a blood donor? You or a friend or family member involved in a bad accident and needing blood? Someone you know and love with a serious illness or life-threatening condition?

Hopefully those things won't happen to you, but they do happen to others - every minute of every day! And blood is needed every minute of every day.

Where does the blood come from? It comes from you, my friend - and only you. Blood can only come from one source, and that is people.

So think about what would happen if that minute comes to you or a loved one and there is
no blood to be had. While that worst-case scenario hasn't occurred, the situation is dire.

Due to a number of factors, there is a drastic blood shortage across the country.

On October 1st, the Red Cross came to Hicksville for their scheduled blood drive. Red Cross Ambassador Zelda Zimmerman reports that while only 35 units were collected, thirty-five people can receive the gift of life-giving blood.

Held at The First Church of Christ, the drive was supported by members of the Rotary Club who assisted with setup and teardown. Rotary also footed the bill for sandwich ingredients. Alice Breidenbaugh, Sara Green, and Marilyn Guilford prepared food for the canteen, with cookies provided by members of St. John Lutheran Church. Registration was done by Connie Adams, Carol Weidenhamer, and Colleen Richter. Zane Zeedyk provided [illegible] for non-driving donors.

The next scheduled drive in Hicksville will be on December 3rd from 1:00-6:00 p.m. Please donate. Make an appointment. Sign up online at redcrossblood.org. Give the gift of life to someone who desperately needs it.

Now you know - that's what it takes!

(Continued from Page 1)

aged to practice in their families and communities.

Students in grades 1st-12th can enroll at www.lifewise.org/antwerpoh.

LifeWise Academy, based in Hilliard, Ohio, is a released time religious instruction program providing Bible-based character education to public school students. With parent permission, students are released from school for one hour per week to attend off-campus classes.

For more information about LifeWise Academy, visit lifewise.org.

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 Holtsberry

A letter from France
Evacuation Hospital 13
A.P.O. 783
Amex Lances, France

Paul Cussen was born and raised in Antwerp. He was my grandmother's first cousin. He registered for the draft June 5, 1917 in Antwerp. He served in France during World War One. He served in the 13th Medical Department Evacuation Hospital in St. Mihiel, France. Here is a letter he wrote my grandmother January 21, 1919.

Miss Florence Manson
Paulding, Ohio

My dear cousin, your kind letter came to me yesterday and indeed I was much pleased. It is appreciated so much since I have had to come to this part of the country.

It is very cold here this morning and I can hardly write. Our fire refuses to burn. If my words ace jumbled together, kindly excuse me.

You mentioned in your letter about French girls. Well, they man appeal to some of the American boys. I could not answer for all but as far as I am concerned individually nothing doing.

I may tell you about one however, she was very pretty and wealthy as well. She and her mother were running a jewelry store. She could speak fluent English. I would meander down on evenings and chat to her, you see it was even a taste of sweets to talk to a girl that could understand me. As far as some others that I have seen they are anything else but decent.

Our fashions are patterned after the lowest type of women. I have seen them in Paris.

I had a nice letter from Aunt Mayme again. She is very kind to remember me so far away. I am trying to bring each one of my cousins something from France, but do not know how I'll succeed. It makes a big call and word to carry.

I have chased all over the castle even in the Duchess's bath tub, but of course she wasn't there, ha ha.

Well Florence I have no news this morning, so I will close with love. I would love to hear from your mamma.

With love to all
I am your cousin, Paul"

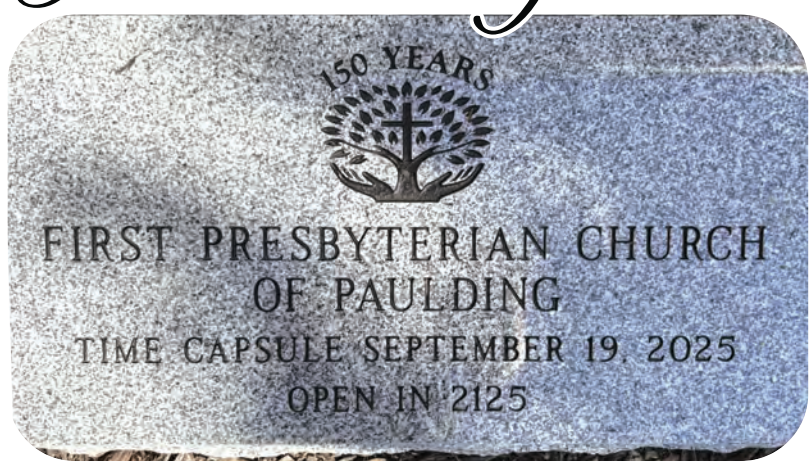
Paul passed away in 1969 and is buried in Maumee Cemetery

GET YOU MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.
NEWS ITEMS ARE ALWAYS FREE!!!

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?
Let your friends and neighbors know for FREE in the West Bend News.
(pictures are extra)

WOODBURN LIONS CLUB
Halloween Events
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31
at Woodburn Plaza
DONUTS – 7am-11am
Come out & Try our Pumpkin Spice Donuts!
(Receive a $1 off coupon w/purchase from participating business)
Woodburn Community Trick or Treat – 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Halloween Costume Party
7:30-8:00 pm @ Woodburn Community Center
Free Cider & Donuts • Candy Bars for participants • Age & Category Costume Contest • $$$ Prizes
sponsored by the Woodburn Lions Club

Thank You...



Thank you to Shawn Dooley of DOOLEY FUNERAL HOMES (Payne and Antwerp) for donating the vault to bury our time capsule and the stone monuments recognizing our 150th anniversary!

First Presbyterian Church
Paulding, OH | corner of Caroline and Cherry Streets



THE CANDY DISH

Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender

Years ago, when our family discussed who would inherit Grandma Parnham's candy dish, my husband was glad to learn that his grandmother had already shared her thoughts. She told them that he was the grandchild who had made the most use of it, so it should be his.

And so it was. After 50 years on Grandma's kitchen countertop, the green Depression glass dish changed hands and has now been in our home for nearly 40 years.

If only the candy dish could tell me its stories. I'd like to hear about lemon drops and ribbon candy. Or was it orange slices? Maybe it was circus peanuts.

I'm not a fiction writer, but I'd consider writing a book about my interview with the candy dish. I'd want to know how many times Grandma lifted the lid to refill it and where the dish came from. Was it a gift? I'd ask about the youngest hands that ever lifted the lid – and the oldest. I'd want to know who couldn't keep their hands out of it and what their favorites were.

I'd ask it to tell me some good stories about Grandma and Grandpa's five children – Doris, Harold, Richard, Virginia, and my mother-in-law, Patricia.

If I could watch a few scenes from their lives on the farm, I'd choose to see how Grandma taught her daughters to sew. There would have been a first time each child sat in front of the sewing machine. A first time threading the bobbin. A first time completing a clothing project and modeling it for the rest of the family. And the candy dish would have been a witness.

In our box of memorabilia from the Parnham side of the family is an Ohio State 4-H Report Form that Patricia had completed at the age of 14. In her cursive handwriting, she answered a question about how her 4-H work could benefit the community: "I can help other people learn to sew."

She penned those words in 1942, not knowing what a talented seamstress she would someday become. Not knowing how many homecoming and wedding dresses she'd someday sew for the women in her life. Not knowing that her quilts would win blue ribbons at the county fair.

Patricia's oldest sister Doris was also a talented seamstress. When our daughters were born, she and Uncle Ted came to visit with gifts in hand. Aunt Doris was the seamstress who created Doggy Pillow, a pillow that went on to be loved so much, he is now fragile with age and tucked away in a dresser drawer. He was the inspiration behind my Doggy Pillow poem.

Many people remember Harold as their school principal, but we knew him as Uncle Harold and his wife as Aunt Virginia. Our fondest memories of the two may be the impromptu visits they made to our home when they were out on Sunday afternoon drives. We were glad they made our home one of their stopping points. Through their visits, our daughters learned how family remains connected, and our candy dish was likely pleased to see familiar faces once again.

Uncle Richard served in the Navy before coming home to work at the Farm Bureau. He and Aunt Fern raised their children in Montpelier and, as a family, they helped farm the 70-acre property.

Lunch at Grandma's house meant she would serve a meal that ended with homemade pie for dessert. Everyone knew to be quiet so Grandpa could listen to the farm news report on the radio. Afterward, they headed outdoors, where even the girls knew how to drive a tractor.

Another of Grandma's daughters, Virginia, was fondly known as Aunt Ginny; her husband, Dante Fabiani, was Uncle Don. The two had met at Tri-State College, now Trine University, in Angola, Indiana. Aunt Ginny was a talented homemaker who passed her interest in needlework on to her daughters.

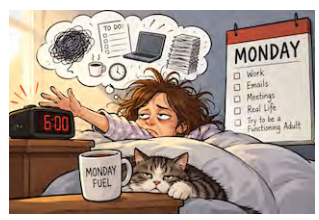
A visit to the Fabiani Theatre on the Trine campus is a fun one, for in the lobby is a framed portrait of Virginia Fabiani. And it makes us smile just knowing that's really a portrait of Aunt Ginny.

The Parnham family scrapbook is full of photos that had never been labeled with names, so I've enlisted help from cousins. It's somewhat comical that sorting through the box of papers remains on nearly everyone's January to-do list, year after year.

Reading through the memorabilia is fun, yet it can leave us with a sense of emptiness – a feeling that part of the story is missing. If they were still here, we'd ask them to tell their stories once again. This time, we're older. This time, we really do want to hear about their younger days. In their own words.

Perhaps a grandmother's candy dish is never about candy. Maybe it's an invitation that draws people together to do the ordinary things families do. Maybe it's a lesson in how to sit down and stay awhile.

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



MONDAY MORNING

Monday morning again and time to write. I always have a story in my head and one came to me yesterday. As my bride and I get older it's harder to make it to church at 10:00 on Sunday morning. Just takes longer to dress and get ready. During the week we don't even set an alarm. Sometimes it's hard to sleep thinking about an alarm going off.

As we sing praises to God and pastor Tim begins his message it leads me to think about the problems that nearly all of us have. A close friend whose wife is sick, and he's having some struggles himself even though he's not old, at least not what we consider old.

I think of the family that has a prodigal daughter. Nicest family ever but she was known to be rowdy, got pregnant and nearly destroyed her parents. Her father was a good minister and resigned because he felt people would consider him to be bad parent.

Many of the grandparents there are concerned because they have a grand child that has left the faith. Seems nearly every grandparent there has this problem to face. It's troubling to a grandparent to see their grandchildren stray and there's nothing they can do but pray.

It's hard to concentrate on praising God while you are thinking about everyday problems. Money problems, relationship problems, no matter what we seem to all have them. Yet we gather together to praise God. We realize there's no other solution, and we wonder about the people that face their problems on their own.

But we do find comfort and all our problems seem to melt when we remember that Jesus commanded us to have joy. Our minds are drawn to a black minister that was beaten severely as a slave, and later became minister of the biggest church in Philadelphia. We remember the song he wrote, "Take Your Burden to the Lord and Leave it There".

"Leave it there, leave it there

"Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there

"If you trust and never doubt

"He will surely bring you out

"Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there

"If your body suffers pain

"And your health you can't regain

"Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there."

The author of this song was Charles Tinley. He was beaten so severely that his face was permanently disfigured.

When a reporter asked him how he can make sense of all of this, he wrote the song, "We'll Understand It Better By and By. In that land of perfect day when the mists have rolled away. We will understand it better by and by."

—James Neuhouser

(Continued from Page 1)

or transitioned into a new role this year is an investment in our members and the communities we serve," said Randy Price, President and CEO of Paulding Putnam. "Erika and Bobby bring the experience to help us grow, and our newest linemen, installers and staff are the people who will keep the lights on and the network connected for years to come."

Erika Willitzer, Vice President of Strategic Engagement and External Affairs

Erika Willitzer returns to Paulding Putnam with a track record of bringing major investment to northwest Ohio. For the past six years, she served as Executive Director of Defiance County Economic Development, where she and community partners secured more than $2.5 billion in private investment and created more than 1,900 new, high-paying jobs. That work included First Quality Tissue, the largest single investment in Defiance County's history, a billion-dollar project now under construction.

Willitzer previously worked at Paulding Putnam in marketing, member services and economic development. In her new role, she will focus on growth, leading economic development, government relations, member engagement, and marketing and communications for the cooperative's electric and fiber internet operations.

"I'm excited to bring people and ideas together to create meaningful growth across both the electric and internet sides of the organization," she said.

Bobby Armentrout, Sr. Director of Technology and Network Operations

Bobby Armentrout brings more than 25 years of experience in telecommunications, broadband engineering, construction, network operations and technology leadership. Most recently, he served as Vice President of Engineering and Technology at Home Telecom in South Carolina, where he led large fiber deployments, network expansions and operational improvement initiatives.

At Paulding Putnam, Armentrout will lead technology strategy, broadband engineering, construction, network operations, GIS and vendor relationships, while ensuring the co-op's technology infrastructure supports a reliable, secure electric grid.

"This is an opportunity to improve reliability, create strong processes, and build systems that will serve the cooperative and its members well into the future," Armentrout said.

Internal transitions

Renee Hull, of Paulding, has transitioned from Chief Financial Officer to Chief Financial & Risk Officer. In her new role, she will continue overseeing accounting, billing and purchasing while taking on an expanded focus on legal and regulatory matters. Renee has worked at the co-op for more than two years, with previous experience in accounting roles at OmniSource, Allison Payment Systems, and National Door and Trim.

Tara Schlatter, of Paulding, has been promoted to Director of Networking and Business Solutions, where she will oversee networking, IT, GIS mapping, and business solutions software. This alignment brings together many of the systems and technology functions that support nearly every area of the co-op. Tara has nearly 20 years of experience at Paulding Putnam, working in various departments including billing, accounting, member service, and data analysis.

Growing the team

Other recent hires in 2026 include:

- Jesse Lammers of Leipsic, Ohio; Apprentice Lineman
- Dakota Burke of Edgerton, Ohio; Apprentice Lineman
- Austin Puckett of Fort Wayne, Indiana; Broadband Installer
- Gavin Huff of Continental, Ohio; Engineering Intern
- Keith Kimmet of Cloverdale, Ohio; Facilities Assistant

As a member-owned cooperative, every investment Paulding Putnam makes, from fiber miles to new team members, is made for the people and communities it serves. The co-op's growth means more local jobs, faster internet in rural areas, and a strong electric system ready for the decades ahead.

More information about each new employee and the co-op can be found online at www.PPEC.coop.

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS HONORED DURING RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

The Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) and the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman are honoring long-term care residents by celebrating Residents' Rights Month.

Each October, Residents' Rights Month recognizes and reaffirms Ohio's commitment to ensuring all residents live with dignity, free from neglect and abuse. Selected by the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice), this year's Residents' Rights Month theme, Join Us at the Table, highlights the central role that food, mealtime, and community play in residents' daily lives.

"As Chair of the Governor's Nursing Home Quality and Accountability Task Force, we heard stories and perspectives that drive us towards meaningful change for long-term care residents and those that care for them," said AGE Director Ursel J. McElroy. "The Ohio Department of Aging is committed to bolstering residents' rights and improving overall quality of care and quality of life across the long-term care continuum."

Residents of long-term care facilities are guaranteed a variety of rights under federal and state law, including the right to make independent choices, to be treated with dignity and respect, and to voice concerns. Residents' Rights Month also highlights the critical role of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman, who advocates on behalf of residents to ensure these rights are upheld and protected.

In 2025, the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman launched the Ohio Residents' Rights Council, bringing together presidents of nursing home resident councils across Ohio to help residents' voices be heard and amplified.

"Every day ombudsmen visit the nearly 2,500 nursing, assisted living, and adult group homes across the state to speak with residents. We are there to educate residents on their rights, empower them to seek excellence in their care, and advocate alongside them to resolve problems related to their health, safety, welfare, and rights," explained Leilani Pelletier, the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman for Ohio. Ohio has 12 regional ombudsman offices around the state with about 225 staff ombudsmen and volunteer ombudsmen serving residents.

To contact your regional Long-Term Care Ombudsman program, visit ombudsman.ohio.gov or call the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman at 1-800-282-1206.

For more information about Residents' Rights Month and resources for long-term care residents and their families, visit aging.ohio.gov/residentsrightsmonth.

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***

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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

your legal name along with a phone number and address. *You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.*

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

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Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Public school funding cuts are a hot topic in the State of Ohio.

Paulding Schools had not been on the ballot for 26 years to ask our tax payers for additional funds. After 4 consecutive years of cuts to our funding from the state, we had to make the decision to ask our tax payers for help to address the immediate needs of our district. In order to spread the burden out among all tax payers, we decided to place a .75% income tax levy on the ballot for permanent improvements. Keep in mind Social Security payments are not taxable income for school taxes. Originally it was on the ballot as a permanent tax. After the failure, we listened to the taxpayers who told us their main concern was the fact that it was permanent. We changed it to a five-year renewable tax.

We have tried to be transparent in listing the needs of our district over the next 20 years. Our needs have not changed but our priorities have. The immediate needs that will be addressed in order are: Pay Off Debt that funded Emergency HVAC Repairs that had to be made to ensure we had heat and air in our buildings, replace roofs, replace plumbing and fixtures, school buses, and replace 40 year old HS bleachers.

After the levy failure in May, we were forced to make some tough decisions. If the November levy fails, the decisions will be even tougher but we have to operate with the funds we have.

Our main goal of providing the best education we can for our PEVS students cannot change.

Our students continue to thrive in academics, athletics, music and our many service organizations.

My parents instilled in me that it is the responsibility of every generation to educate the next generation to enable them to be our leaders. Someone paid for my education - now its my turn.

Only 28% of our registered voters voted in the last election. The futures of the Oakwood and Paulding communities depend on our vote November 3.

If you have questions about the levy, contact Superintendent Chris Etzler or a board member. Don't rely on rumors.

—Karen Saxton
PEVS Board President,
Oakwood, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why I Support Paulding Schools

As a parent with children attending Paulding Exempted Village Schools, I believe supporting our schools means supporting the future of our community.

Having a senior in high school makes this especially meaningful to me right now. We are beginning the process of visiting colleges and talking about what the future holds. As exciting as this next chapter is, it also reminds me how quickly these years pass and how much our schools contribute to shaping the people our children become.

What makes me especially proud is that my son has talked about one day returning to Paulding to teach the future generation's of this community. He also plans to be involved in coaching allowing him to give back to the same community that helped shape him. Even as he sees firsthand the repairs and improvements our school buildings need, he still sees something bigger than the physical building. He sees a community worth investing in, students worth encouraging, and an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

To me, that says a lot about what our schools represent, and the values instilled in our youth.

A school is so much more than a place where children go to learn. It is where they discover their strengths, develop confidence, build friendships, learn responsibility, and find opportunities to pursue their dreams. It is where teachers, coaches, and staff make a difference in students' lives, sometimes in ways that cannot be measured by a test score or report card.

Our schools bring people together. They give our children opportunities to participate in athletics, music, career and technical education, clubs, and countless other activities that help shape who they become. They teach teamwork, encourage leadership, create lasting memories, and give students a sense of belonging and pride in where they come from.

Our schools are also an important part of what makes Paulding a community. They bring families together, connect generations, and give us something to rally around. When our students succeed, our community succeeds. When we invest in our children, we invest in the future of Paulding.

As parents, we want our children to have opportunities to learn, grow, and prepare for whatever path they choose in life. We also hope they carry the values they learn here with them, wherever life takes them. Perhaps, like my son hopes to do, they will find their way back home someday to give the next generation the same opportunities they were given.

That is why I support the levy. It is not simply about buildings or equipment. It is about the students who walk through those doors every day, the educators who work hard to make a difference, and the community that stands behind them. Taking care of our schools is one way we show that we care about the people inside them and the future of the community we call home.

Supporting Paulding Schools is about more than today. It is about the opportunities we provide our children, the pride we have in our community, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

I encourage my fellow Paulding residents to join me in supporting our schools and voting YES for Paulding Schools. Let's continue investing in the students, educators, and community that make Paulding a place we are proud to call home.

Respectively,

—Jeremy Dasher

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

I am writing in support of the five year .75% Permanent Improvement income tax for the Paulding Exempted Village Schools.

Time has shown the clear need for repairs to the HVAC system. The district did attempt to find the funds to make repairs and has, in response to levy failures, made cuts in the budget. How much the cuts hurt depends on whether you lost bussing, miss a laid off faculty member or pay for a son or daughter participating in sports.

Ohio's Constitution requires the state to provide for the common school system. But we see income tax cuts and funds going to things called vouchers, forcing our public schools to look to local property and income taxes. Clearly the shortage of state support is showing up in school districts across our state.

But casting blame on the state does not help our children. I trust the five people we elected to be school board members and will vote yes on the tax.

—Stanley M. Searing
Retired PEVS
Superintendent

THE FAMILY CONVERSATION YOUR ESTATE PLAN IS WAITING FOR

Finishing your estate plan is a big step, but failing to notify the people involved can lead to confusion and complications when it's time to use it. Since the events that bring those plans into action, such as an accident, serious illness or hospitalization, rarely come with a warning, talking with your family about your estate plan before a crisis occurs can provide clarity and help reduce uncertainty, conflict and stress later

Would your loved ones know what to do?

About half of Americans turning 65 today will need some form of long-term care, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. If you became unable to make medical or financial decisions, documents such as powers of attorney and advance directives can help ensure someone you trust can step in. Just as important is making sure your loved ones know those documents exist and where to find them. Without access to them, even close family members may be unable to access bank accounts, pay bills or make medical decisions on your behalf without going through a court.

Who should be included in an estate plan conversation?

When you're ready to talk with loved ones, start with anyone named in a formal role in your estate plan, such as a financial power of attorney, health care proxy, trustee or executor. You may also want to include family members who are likely to be involved in your care or inherit assets.

Think about the dynamics of your family as you plan the conversation. Some families are comfortable discussing everything together, while others communicate more effectively through smaller group discussions or one-on-one conversations.

What should your family know about your estate plan?

Start with your values and the goals behind your decisions. Explaining what matters most to you can help family members better understand your wishes.

From there, review practical details, including who serves in key roles, where important documents are stored and how to contact your estate-planning attorney. You may also want to discuss your care preferences if you were to lose independence and any decisions that family members might find surprising. For example, if inheritances will not be divided equally, sharing your reasoning now may help prevent misunderstandings later.

Most importantly, leave time for questions. The goal is not to cover every possible scenario in a single meeting. It's to create understanding and give loved ones confidence about what matters to you.

If a single conversation feels overwhelming, consider breaking it into a few shorter discussions over time.

Need help starting the conversation?

Many people worry about how family members will react or feel unsure about where to begin. A financial advisor can help you prepare for the conversation and, in some cases, facilitate it. Having a neutral third party involved can help keep discussions productive and ensure everyone leaves with greater clarity about your wishes.

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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H20 Water Store, H&W NAPA, 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: Advanced Auto, Chief, Defiance Public Library, Dollar General (Clinton St), Marathon Main Stop, Newman's Marathon Carryout, Senior Center, Smoke Stop … **Junction** Dollar General, Cabbage Patch

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

Oakwood: Cooper Comm. Library, Dollar General, Landing Strip, Oakwood Market, Oakleaf Diner

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

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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LADY ACES SWEEP EDGERTON AS COACH LAVIN CELEBRATES 200TH CAREER VICTORY



HICKSVILLE – It was a night of celebration for the Hicksville Lady Aces on Thursday, October 15, as the varsity volleyball team delivered a commanding three-set sweep of the Edgerton Bulldogs while head coach Samantha Lavin reached a major career milestone with her 200th coaching victory.

The Lady Aces took control early and never looked back, defeating Edgerton by scores of 25-19, 25-11 and 25-12 in front of their home crowd.

Hicksville opened the match with a competitive 25-19 victory in the first set before finding its rhythm and dominating the final two sets. The Lady Aces' balanced offensive attack, strong serving and solid defensive play proved too much for the Bulldogs to overcome.

McKenna Baird turned in an outstanding all-around performance, leading Hicksville with nine kills while adding 13 assists, four service aces and nine digs.

Jocelyn Baldwin was equally impressive, contributing eight kills, a team-high five aces, 10 digs and three blocks. Her strong presence at the net and effectiveness from the service line helped keep Edgerton on its heels throughout the match.

Braelynn McCain played a key role in directing the Lady Aces' offense, dishing out a team-high 20 assists while adding seven kills, two aces and nine digs.

Mika Inkrott provided another strong performance at the net, finishing with six kills, eight digs and a team-high four blocks. McKenna Bergman added five kills, five digs and three blocks to further strengthen Hicksville's offensive and defensive efforts.

Liberty Doctor contributed two service aces and six digs, while Tori Wells chipped in eight digs to help anchor the Lady Aces' back-row defense.

The balanced effort allowed Hicksville to maintain control throughout the match, with multiple players contributing both offensively and defensively.

While the victory was an important one for the Lady Aces, the evening carried even greater significance for head coach Samantha Lavin, who celebrated her 200th career coaching victory.

The junior varsity Lady Aces added to the celebration with a straight-set victory of their own, defeating Edgerton 25-20 and 25-11 to complete the evening sweep.

Congratulations to Coach Samantha Lavin on her 200th career victory and to the Lady Aces on a successful night of volleyball!

(Continued from Page 1)

proved to be a fitting championship battle, with both teams refusing to back down.

Paulding opened the match with a hard-fought 25-20 victory in the first set, but Tinora answered with consecutive wins of 25-22 and 25-16 to put the Lady Panthers on the brink of defeat.

The Lady Panthers regained their momentum in the fourth set, dominating the Rams 25-15 to force a decisive fifth set with the conference championship hanging in the balance.

With the pressure at its highest, Paulding delivered, securing the final set 15-12 to complete the comeback and ignite a championship celebration.

Kayde Kuckuck led Paulding's offensive attack with a team-high 13 kills while adding nine digs and 13 receptions. Kayleigh Dunham was a dominant presence at the net, contributing 12 kills and a team-high six blocks.

Karli Breedlove turned in another strong all-around performance with nine kills, two service aces, two blocks and 14 receptions. Addison Arend also delivered nine kills while adding three blocks to strengthen the Panthers' front line.

Estie Pease directed Paulding's offense with an impressive 42 assists while contributing two kills, one ace, two blocks and three digs. Elliette Roughton added three kills and a block.

Defensively, Tori Schlatter continued to anchor the Lady Panthers' back row, recording nine digs, three assists, an ace and a team-high 24 receptions. Libby Breier contributed four digs, 12 receptions and an ace, while Jayla Griffith added a service ace.

Tinora, which entered the contest with a 17-5 overall record and a 5-2 GMC mark, provided a formidable challenge throughout the evening.

Addison Dominique led the Lady Rams' offensive attack with a match-high 20 kills while adding five digs and two blocks. Braleigh Addington followed with 18 kills, five digs, two service aces and a block.

Kallie Wells contributed nine kills and three digs, while Ella Schaublin directed Tinora's offense with 43 assists. Schaublin also recorded 11 digs, two aces, two blocks and a kill.

Macy Behnfeldt helped anchor the Rams' defense with 15 digs and four service aces, while Brooklynn Behnfeldt added 13 digs. Riley Baldwin contributed three aces, and Aubrey Hall added four digs and two aces.

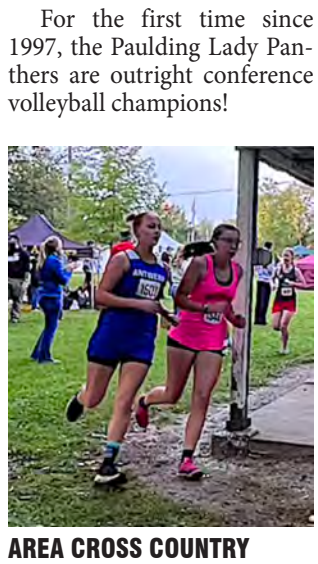
Tinora also received defensive contributions from Kenzy Bacon with five digs, Teagan Billing with three digs and a block, Ava Kissner with two digs, and Katie Mills with four digs, three aces and a block.

Adding to the excitement was the tremendous support from Paulding's fans and student section, who helped create an electric atmosphere for the historic championship match. The team expressed its appreciation for the enthusiastic crowd that showed up to cheer the Lady Panthers on to victory.

The JV Lady Panthers battled Tinora in two competitive sets but came up just short, falling 25-20 and 25-21. Despite the loss, Paulding's junior varsity team finished its season with an impressive 20-2 overall record.

With a 21-1 record, an undefeated GMC championship season and a place in Paulding volleyball history secured, the Lady Panthers have given their community plenty to celebrate.

For the first time since 1997, the Paulding Lady Panthers are outright conference volleyball champions!



AREA CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS SHINE AT ANTWERP INVITATIONAL; ARCHERS CAPTURE TWO TEAM TITLES

ANTWERP – Riverside Veterans Memorial Park welcomed area cross country teams Saturday, October 10, for the annual Antwerp Cross Country Invitational. The host Archers enjoyed an outstanding day, capturing two team championships, while Fairview, Hicksville and Paulding also turned in impressive performances.

Antwerp's varsity girls claimed first place out of 11 schools, led by second-place finisher Gianna Laker. Other finishers included Reese Durbin, Gabriella Snyder, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Aleta Sorrell, Brooklynn Lawson, Annaliese Zijlstra, Heidi Rice, Annabelle Mowery and Jen Lawhorn.

The varsity boys finished third as a team, led by 12th-place finisher Jason McKay. Other competitors included Braxton Peters, Marshall Rice, Tucker Doster, Gage Barker, Aiden Hook and Krayston Eicher.

Antwerp's junior high girls captured first place, led by fourth-place finisher Jocelyn Laker, followed by Destiny Getz, Josie Laker, Olivia Kosch and Quinne Bradbury.

The junior high boys placed second, paced by Julian Rivera in fourth place, followed by Quintin Reyes, Cy Zuber, Bennett Graham, Brock Barker and Avett Clem.

Fairview's varsity girls finished second as a team, led by individual champion Meredith Alvarez (20:40). Autumn Becker placed third (21:54), followed by Rose Harris in fifth (22:52), Sammy Mavis in 17th (24:23), Peyton McCann in 36th (26:55) and Ariadna Romero (39:02).

The varsity boys also placed second, led by individual champion Malaki Neilson (17:07) and runner-up Cael Neilson (17:19). Other finishers included Kale Marsee, 10th (18:27); Barrett Grant, 20th (19:17); Kaleb Rabe, 21st (19:19); Mathias Neilson, 25th (19:29); Layne Ford, 26th (19:35); Luke Grinnell (20:15); Mason Knapp (21:18); Henry Hinschlager (22:38); and Logan Nicholson (23:57).

Fairview's junior high girls finished fifth, led by Audra Case in third (13:34) and Charli Gillengerten in ninth (14:26). Chamile Clifford placed 28th (18:01), while Kaylin Schooley finished in 32:10.

Tucker Zeedyk represented Fairview in the junior high boys race, placing 17th in 14:27.

Hicksville's varsity boys captured first place out of 11 schools, led by Zephraim Rittenhouse in third (17:31), Alex Franklin in seventh (18:07), Jonah Laker in eighth (18:18), Caleb Franklin in 13th (18:46), Clay Marshman in 15th (18:47), Greyson Combs in 16th (18:56), Kaleb Rost in 22nd (19:21), Vincent Van Horn in 29th (19:40) and Noah Campbell in 32nd (19:45). Other finishers included Colton Fisher, 38th (20:51); Brody Gonzales, 39th (20:55); Colton Slattery, 42nd (21:18); Connor Myers, 49th (22:12); Jacoby Campbell, 52nd (22:36); Hayden Huber, 54th (22:42); Braylon Sanders, 68th (24:44); and Aiden Wonderly, 71st (26:09).

The varsity girls placed fourth out of 10 schools, led by Mya Haggerty in seventh (22:54), Braelyn Adams in 16th (24:21), Vaida Van Horn in 23rd (25:05), Trinity Campbell in 28th (25:44), Anna Saunders in 33rd (26:33), Nevaeh Phillips in 48th (28:44) and Valeria Tomas in 55th (31:28).

Hicksville's junior high girls placed second, led by individual champion Quinn Haggerty (12:30) and runner-up Chloe Laker (12:30). Other finishers included Eden Campbell, 16th (15:36); Anna Combs, 26th (17:09); and Madi Brown, 29th (18:10).

The junior high boys placed fourth, led by individual champion Waylon Hilty (11:49) and runner-up Liam Altman (11:57). Other finishers included Steven Swanson, seventh (13:33); Kip Scott, 12th (13:46); Elias Rittenhouse, 16th (14:26); Nolan Enderle, 21st (16:17); and Brantley Sleesman, 24th (16:54).

Paulding also enjoyed success at the invitational, with Leonel Reyes and Landon Grinnell earning medals for their fifth- and sixth-place finishes, respectively. Aly White and Allie Manz recorded season-best times for the Panthers.

LADY PANTHERS SWEEP HICKSVILLE, SCHLATTER REACHES 1,000 CAREER DIGS IN MILESTONE VICTORY



Paulding Senior Tori Schlatter has another great night, reaching 1000 career digs. Shown here she spikes the ball back to the Aces. ***More pictures at engagingexposures.com***

PAULDING – The Paulding Lady Panthers continued their impressive volleyball season Tuesday, October 13, sweeping the Hicksville Lady Aces in three sets while celebrating a major career milestone for one of their standout players.

Paulding claimed the varsity victory by scores of 25-20, 25-9 and 25-11, improving to 20-1 overall and remaining unbeaten in Green Meadows Conference play at 6-0.

The Lady Panthers faced their toughest challenge in the opening set, as Hicksville battled to keep the contest close. Paulding eventually pulled away for a 25-20 victory before taking complete control of the match with dominating performances in the second and third sets.

Karli Breedlove led the Paulding offensive attack with 11 kills, while sophomore

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middle hitter Elliette Roughton delivered an outstanding performance with seven kills and three blocks. Roughton's consistent play at the net helped the Panthers maintain their offensive rhythm throughout the match, earning her Signature Embroidery Player of the Game honors.

Estie Pease directed the Paulding offense with 31 assists while also leading the team from the service line with two aces.

The evening's biggest celebration came when Paulding libero Tori Schlatter recorded her 1,000th career dig, marking a tremendous accomplishment for the Lady Panthers' defensive standout.

Hicksville received contributions from several players despite the loss. McKenna Baird led the Lady Aces with four kills and seven digs, while Jocelyn Baldwin contributed seven digs and three blocks.

McKenna Bergman and Liberty Doctor each added three kills for Hicksville, while Braelynn McCain directed the offense with 10 assists. Mika Inkrott recorded a team-high eight digs, and Tori Wells chipped in five digs.

The victory marked Paulding's second consecutive win and continued the Lady Panthers' remarkable success on their home court, where they have won 17 of their last 18 matches.

Hicksville dropped to 5-16 on the season as the Lady Aces continued battling through a difficult stretch of their schedule.

The junior varsity contest also went Paulding's way, with the Lady Panthers completing the evening sweep in straight sets. Paulding's JV squad improved to 20-1 overall and 5-1 in GMC action.

LADY RAIDERS SNAP LOSING STREAK WITH COMMANDING SWEEP OF ANTWERP



Wayne Trace freshman Megan Parker is on the front lines of the game with this spike and sophomore Mallory Barker attempts to block the shot. ***More pictures at engagingexposures.com***

HAVILAND – The Wayne Trace Lady Raiders put an end to their three-match losing streak Tuesday, October 13, delivering a convincing three-set sweep of the Antwerp Lady Archers in volleyball action.

Wayne Trace controlled the match from start to finish, claiming the victory by scores of 25-13, 25-16 and 25-13.

The Lady Raiders established their momentum early, taking the opening set 25-13 behind a balanced offensive attack and strong serving. Antwerp battled to stay competitive in the second set, but Wayne Trace maintained control to secure a 25-16 victory.

With the opportunity to close out the match, the Lady Raiders continued their strong play in the third set, matching their opening-set performance with another 25-13 win to complete the sweep.

Amber Stoller led Wayne Trace's offensive attack with eight kills, providing a consistent presence at the net throughout the contest.

Emma Whitman helped direct the Lady Raiders' offense, distributing 10 assists to keep the attack moving effectively.

Brenna Beining delivered an outstanding performance from the service line, recording a team-high four aces to help Wayne Trace maintain pressure on the Archers.

Despite the loss, Antwerp received contributions from several players throughout its lineup.

Hudsyn Bagley led the Lady Archers' offensive attack with five kills on 21 attempts while adding a service ace and three digs. Alexis Otto followed with four kills, one ace, one block and one dig.

Allison Sproles contributed three kills and four digs, while Avery Honigford added two kills, two assists and a block. Kati Phares chipped in a kill.

Clara Rohrs helped direct Antwerp's offense with a team-high eight assists while delivering three service aces and a team-leading 16 digs.

Briley Bagley provided additional defensive support with nine digs, while Emery Jones added three. Eliza Cline contributed four digs, and Josie Hahn finished with four assists and one dig.

As a team, Antwerp recorded 15 kills on 70 attack attempts, along with five service aces, two blocks, 42 digs and 14 assists.

The victory provided a much-needed boost for the Lady Raiders, who had dropped their previous three matches. Wayne Trace improved to 5-15 on the season with the win.

For Antwerp, the loss marked its sixth defeat in the last eight matches, dropping the Lady Archers to 8-13 overall.

NSCC WELCOMES BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR DEWINE

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine recently appointed various Board of Trustees representatives for colleges and universities around the state, including two new Board members and one returning member for Northwest State Community College. Brent Stevens (Ohio City) and Kevin Whitlock (West Unity) were both appointed to the NSCC Board of Trustees by Governor DeWine, and John Poulson (Archbold) was reappointed. All terms began September 4, 2026 and will end June 9, 2032.

Mr. Poulson represents Henry County, and has been a Board member since his appointment on August 29, 2023. Mr. Stevens succeeds Scott Mull as the representative for Van Wert County, while Mr. Whitlock fills the Williams County seat formerly held by Jeff Erb.

NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez offered his heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the Board of Trustees for their work on behalf of the College and in the community. Hernandez noted "NSCC is blessed to have a civically-engaged Board that empowers our team to Elevate Northwest Ohio on a daily basis. Our Board provides tremendous guidance as we continue living our mission of improving the lives of individuals and strengthening local communities."

"I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Stevens and Mr. Whitlock as they join the Board, and express my appreciation to Mr. Poulson for his ongoing dedication to the College," said Hernandez. "I also want to sincerely thank Mr. Mull and Mr. Erb for their valuable contributions to the Board of Trustees, as well as their dedicated service across various committees and special events in support of Northwest State."

PANTHERS POUNCE EARLY, ROLL PAST EDGERTON 38-6 IN HOME VICTORY



Senior Jordan Manz receives the pass and runs in for a free touchdown. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING – The Paulding Panthers wasted little time taking control of their Friday, October 9, matchup against the Edgerton Bulldogs, using an explosive offensive performance and a stingy defense to cruise to a convincing 38-6 victory on their home field.

The Panthers struck just 12 seconds into the contest when Avery Cooper broke loose for a 63-yard touchdown run. Hedwin Cortes added the extra point to give Paulding an early 7-0 advantage.

Paulding continued its offensive surge midway through the opening quarter as quarterback Ridge Hunt connected with Jordan Manz on a 43-yard touchdown pass. Another successful extra point pushed their lead to 14-0.

Edgerton answered late in the first quarter when Brayden Stark punched in a one-yard touchdown run. The Bulldogs missed the extra point, leaving Paulding ahead 14-6 after the opening period.

The Panthers extended their lead in the second quarter when Cortes connected on a 27-yard field goal with 9:56 remaining before halftime. Hunt and Manz then teamed up again with 1:11 left in the half, this time connecting on a 57-yard touchdown strike to send Paulding into the locker room with a commanding 24-6 advantage.

Paulding continued rolling in the third quarter as Hunt found Manz for their third touchdown connection, a 41-yard scoring pass that stretched the lead to 31-6.

Cooper capped the Panthers' scoring with a five-yard touchdown run at the 3:00 mark of the third quarter. Cortes converted the extra point, giving Paulding its final 38-6 margin.

The Panthers' offense was firing on all cylinders, piling up 355 total yards on just 30 plays. Paulding rushed for 202 yards on 19 carries, averaging an impressive 10.6 yards per attempt, while adding 153 yards through the air.

Cooper delivered a standout performance in the backfield, rushing for 181 yards and two touchdowns on just 12 carries, averaging 15.1 yards per attempt. Wes Grindstaff added 14 rushing yards, while Zach Salas contributed 11 yards.

Hunt was equally impressive directing the passing attack, completing five of nine attempts for 147 yards and three touchdowns without an interception.

Manz proved nearly unstoppable in the receiving game, hauling in three passes for 141 yards and three touchdowns. His three scoring receptions accounted for all of Paulding's passing touchdowns. Nick Baughman added two receptions for seven yards, while Grindstaff contributed a catch for five yards.

Defensively, the Panthers turned in another strong showing, holding Edgerton to just six points and 172 yards of total offense. The Bulldogs managed 114 rushing yards on 41 attempts and completed five passes for 58 yards.

Salas anchored the Paulding defense with a team-high 14 tackles, including one tackle for loss. Baughman followed with 11 tackles, while Jalen Manz recorded eight tackles and two tackles for loss.

Javvon Stiltner contributed seven tackles, while Grady Arend finished with six tackles, including a sack and a tackle for loss. Emmett Barnes added five tackles, while Ivan Martinez and Eli Pessefall each recorded four.

Cooper also made his presence felt defensively, registering four tackles and a sack. Jordan Manz and Jason Manz each added three tackles.

Special teams provided another bright spot for Paulding. Cortes was perfect on the evening, converting all five extra-point attempts along with his 27-yard field goal. Baughman also contributed a 26-yard punt return.

The Panthers' defense shut out Edgerton over the final three quarters, while the offense scored 24 unanswered points after the Bulldogs' lone touchdown.

With the victory, Paulding continued to demonstrate its offensive firepower and defensive toughness, putting together a complete team performance in front of its home crowd.

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THE LEFT TURN



Sheldon Haudenschild finds Victory Lane 2 nights in a row!
Photo by Action Photos Ohio

By: Ron Burt

Last week the World of Outlaws 410 Winged Sprint Car Series, charged through Ohio, with 3 big nights of racing. Sheldon Haudenschild's NOS Energy Drink Buckeye Brawl, started in Findlay at Millstream Speedways on the 4/10 mile dirt oval. A capacity crowd packed the historic racetrack and watched Michael "Buddy" Kofoid, start on the poll and ended up taking the checked flag. Garet Willianson, and David Gravel had to settle for 2nd and 3rd.

The second night of the Brawl had the Outlaws on the newly refurbished Mansfield Speedway. It's taken over a year to bring the former paved NASCAR track back to life and now it's a half mile dirt oval. From last spring until now the speedway has gone through growing pains. Give track owner and former NASCAR driver Matt Tifft another year or two, and this facility could be competition for Eldora. On Saturday, October 9th, Wooster Ohio's, Sheldon Haudenschild found victory Lane, in the series that carries his name. Donny Schatz and Carson Macedo stood alongside the winner on the podium.

Saturday, the 3 night Buckeye Brawl wrapped up on the Ohio/Pennsylvania Stateline in Hartford Ohio, at the famous Sharon Speedway. The second night in a row, Sheldon Haudenschild took the checkered flag, but this time had to work his way from starting 10th. The Ohio sprint car ace took his time and picked off one by one, the best drivers in the series. Logan Schuchart started 3rd in the feature but only moved up one spot to take 2nd, and David Gravel took 3rd after starting 4th.

Three nights of the Sheldon Haudenschild NOS Energy Drink Buckeye Brawl was perfect for sprint car fans. Every night each racetrack was filled with race fans from different states to watch their favorite drivers battle it out. The chilly temperatures and area high school football games had no impact on the series. Look for night year to be bigger and better. Until next week, keep your wheels down.

Ron out!

(Continued from Page 1)

printed 144 years ago—survive, and the photocopied versions that are floating around are small print and difficult to read.

Published 10 years later, the 1892 Paulding County atlas is widely available, thanks to a reprint done in 1976 to honor the country's Bicentennial. The 1882 volume contains original information that the 1892 atlas does not.

The newly printed nine by twelve-inch hardcover edition is 124 pages long, and packed with local history from a century and a half ago. Besides summaries of local, township, and village histories, the book contains biographies of the leaders of the community as well as township maps and several never-before printed photographs.

So much changed locally in those 10 years. Paulding County would have been in its canal era in 1882, and on the cusp of railroad transportation. Both a north-south and an east-west railroad opened in 1882, just months after the publication of the book. Krick points out that the Reservoir War still was five years in the future when the original was printed, and the courthouse that stands today was not yet built.

"This is going to be completely new material for many people. It's exciting to think that some kid is going to pick up this book and have insight to what Paulding County was like all those years ago," said Krick. "Today, we take for granted what these pioneers had to endure."

Many of the featured citizens resided along one of the two canals, and many of those locations are now ghost towns. The personal sketches reveal that a lot of children did not survive to adulthood and a lot of mothers did not live through childbirth. The book's profiles include former slaves, women and a great many Civil War veterans. It also contains some history of the Indians who resided in early Paulding County.

The original 1882 atlas contained no local maps or photographs. Popular in the last quarter of the 1800s, these books were designed as global atlases containing world, United States, and Biblical histories with maps and illustrations pertaining to these larger subjects. Typically, a small section in the back was devoted to local history. That content was contracted out to historians and newspaper editors of that region, and individuals paid to have their biographies printed in them.

Local author, poet and journalist Everett A. Budd was responsible for the Paulding County histories in both the 1882 and 1892 atlases. He used some material from the 1882 book for the 1892 version, making the 1882 Atlas original source material. Budd was a Civil War veteran and early Paulding County settler. He wrote a poem about Bowman's Rock, which sits in the Oakwood Park to this day and bears his name.

"This was maybe the first attempt at writing a county history. He had to completely compile all the information – go through handwritten records and go talk to other early settlers to gather facts about the first residents, first marriages, first schools, first churches, early industries and more," said Krick. "We can easily look up this information now, but there were no libraries and few newspapers here in those days. Mr. Budd pretty much had to start from scratch."

For the reprint of the 1882 Atlas, Krick used the 1878 plat map, which is the earliest known map of Paulding County property owners. That map is widely available, but has not been printed in a book before.

Also, she painstakingly restored dozens of photos to include in the book, using a computer program rather than A.I., taking up to eight hours per image to restore. Many of the originals had been taken using glass-plate negatives in the days before film cameras were used.

"The photographs give people a taste of what it was really like in the early days," said Krick. "The wooden buildings, plank sidewalks, dirt streets, business signs and large multi-paned windows take you back to another era. You just wonder what was in those buildings. Who worked there? What were they selling?"

She said that the pictures of the Six-Mile Reservoir make you feel like you could actually be standing on the bank and looking out over miles and miles of water with the unbroken woods in the background.

Amid this year's buzz about America's 250th Anniversary, talk of reprinting the 1882 Paulding County atlas and offering it to the public increased at the Paulding County History Museum. Krick felt called to be the one to take on the project.

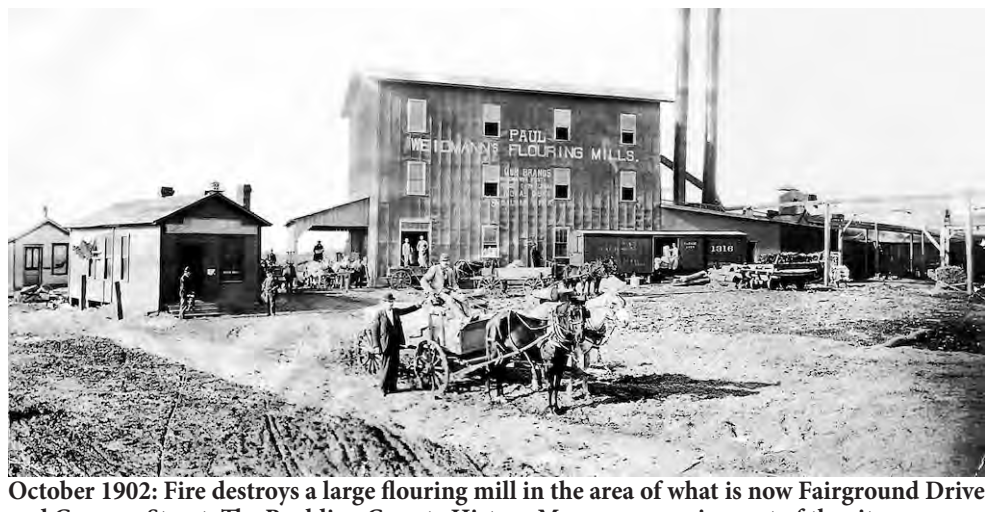
"I've never done a book or anything this long," Krick explains, "but I felt like I had the knowledge and skill to do it."

From 1998 to 2019, she was the editor of the Paulding County Progress, where she created an annual supplement, called Visions, which highlighted local history in each issue and became something that readers collected.

Most recently, Krick has been one of the researchers to obtain the Paulding Downtown Historic District designation. From that information, she created a Historic

(Continued on Page 9)

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



October 1902: Fire destroys a large flouring mill in the area of what is now Fairground Drive and German Street. The Paulding County History Museum occupies part of the site

By: MELINDA KRICK

It Happened in October …

Many important and memorable events in Paulding County history have taken place in the month of October. Take a step back in time to:

1841 – Antwerp village is platted by Horatio N. Curtis, Isaac Woodcock and Samuel Rice and surveyed by W. Wilshire Riley and James Riley. They begin offering about 100 town lots for sale.

1860 – The first county fair is held at Junction at Doyle's on the east side of the canal. Premiums are offered for many departments. A trotting match and a plowing match are on the schedule.

1872 – The first county fair is held at the new fairgrounds in Paulding. The agricultural society raised $900 to purchase 25 acres of land and began clearing the property, building a fence, stands, stalls and office.

1882 – The long-awaited New York, Chicago & St. Louis Railroad, better known as the Nickel Plate Road, begins running trains through the county.

1882 – The village formerly known as Malottville, called Puckerbrush by some, will now be known as Payne.

1884 – The public school building at Payne was discovered to be on fire and as the village has no fire company, the citizens were unable to combat the flames. The school, the furniture and about half the books were burnt to ashes. The building was a nice two-story frame and was only completed about a year ago.

1899 – Thousands of people listen to presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan speak on the courthouse lawn during a train tour of northwest Ohio. He spoke nearly an hour on the grave questions that concern the nation.

1902 – The Windiate flouring mill, formerly the Weidmann Mill, is totally destroyed by fire. In a few minutes the entire structure was ablaze from top to bottom. The fire soon spread to the adjoining buildings, the brick barn, the large store house, corn cribs, etc. The loss is estimated at more than $50,000. The mill, established by the Weidmann Company in 1888, was three stories high with a basement under the entire structure.

1903 – A fire destroys the Cincinnati Northern and Nickel Plate depot at Latty. The papers, books and some freight and expressage was destroyed. The fire is supposed to have been caused by an explosion of an oil lamp left burning in the express room. This leaves two railroads without shelter for their patrons.

1907 – A company of Paulding citizens has leased a farm and will raise 60 acres of tobacco next year. Although the acreage of tobacco was small this year, only about 125 acres, the yield has been exceedingly flattering.

1910 – An estimated 12,000 to 15,000 people attend the formal opening of the new million-dollar German-American Sugar Co. beet factory at Paulding. Speakers include Governor Harmon and gubernatorial candidate Warren G. Harding. A parade of about 100 automobiles to the factory grounds was a highlight.

1912 – The town of Paulding will soon have special free delivery of mail. Postmaster Cullen was informed that this town could get free delivery services if the citizens would comply with requirements necessary to meet postal regulations. Paulding was selected out of 30 towns recommended in Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky and one of 15 towns in the whole U.S. to be used as a test for better mail facilities. A meeting of citizens was called and response was enthusiastic. Council passed an ordinance providing for marking the street intersections and numbering houses.

1920 – The county commissioners have succeeded in getting the state highway department to take over portions of the Junction Pike, Antwerp-Payne Pike and Oakwood-Defiance Pike as state roads.

1920 – As women prepare to cast their ballots for the first time, Isabella Hakes, age 81, of Oakwood, has the honor of being the first woman in Paulding County to vote for a president of the United States, by absentee ballot. Mrs. Zona Secrest is a candidate for probate judge.

1921 – Of the 15 who served on the grand jury, seven were women, this being the first time in the history of the county that women have ever served on a jury.

1933 – As part of a Buckeye State Sheriff's Association program, $500 is raised in three days to equip the sheriff's office, car and county jail with short-wave radio receiving sets.

1934 – A historical meeting at Fort Brown celebrates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the first flour and saw mill in Paulding County, Brown's Mill.

1940 – The Paulding Lumber Company and the depot freight office and warehouse of the Cincinnati Northern Railroad lie in smoldering ruins, the results of a fire of unknown origin. Damages are estimated at up to $100,000.

1941 – Oakwood's Varsity "O" Club nullifies the present name of "Green Devils," by which the basketball team had been known. Members proposed three new names—Trojans, Bobcats and Archers. The student body voted and the name "Bobcats" is initi-

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ated into the school. The name "Green Devils" was voted on by students back in 1934. Monograms of the "Green Devil" were difficult to obtain and very expensive.

1943 – Arden King of Payne receives the American Farmer Degree at the national Future Farmers of America convention. A 1941 graduate of Payne High School, he is the first in the county to receive this award.

1960 – A UFO report from Paulding County was made to Project Blue Book, U.S. Air Force. The individual saw a "very brilliant star" in different locations in the night sky, several nights in a row, sometimes turning orange and red. The person said that the light would disappear suddenly. According to the Air Force report, the individual did not reply to a follow-up questionnaire and the sighting was concluded to be Jupiter.

1982 – The Oakwood News publishes its final issue. The newspaper began in 1889.

1983 – Dedication ceremonies and open house are held for the new Grover Hill Elementary building.

2001 – The "Freedom Playstation" opens at LaFountain Park in Paulding. For five days, hundreds of volunteers gladly toiled – some for nearly 14 hours a day – to build the giant play area. About 300 people attended the dedication ceremony on the final day. The name was chosen following through a contest among county students.

2009 – Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland and Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels are among the dignitaries who help open a 23-mile segment of newly constructed U.S. 24 between Woodburn and Defiance. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is held on the four-lane highway at the state line. Sections connecting Woodburn to I-469 and Napoleon to Toledo will be completed by 2012.

(Continued from Page 8)

District Walking Tour brochure. She worked on the three Paulding County pictorial history books and wrote the application for the Ohio Historical Marker at New Rochester.

Pictures are her passion. Since the 1980s, Krick has collected photographs of local historic significance. Many appear in this book, as well as several from the museum's collection.

She poured many volunteer hours into the project, from planning to reformatting to adding original maps and photographs, resulting in a very accessible "new and improved" version of the original 1882 work. It was helpful to bounce ideas off of fellow volunteers at the Paulding County History Museum, said Krick. She also enlisted some of them to be proofreaders.

The 1882 Atlas will be an invaluable resource for genealogists and researchers of local history. The book is available for a presale cost of $45. The 1892 Atlas can also be purchased in a bundle for a presale price of $55 for both books. Pre-sale orders are due by Nov. 10 and can be purchased through the Paulding County History Museum. Order forms also are on the museum's Facebook page, at the library and at West Bend Printing in Antwerp.

After that date, the regular price for the 1882 Atlas will be $50, and the two books together will be $60. All proceeds from the sale of the books go to the museum.

Krick will be among several local authors at the museum's "Meet the Author Night" on Tuesday, Nov. 17. The event will be open to the public and is part of the upcoming Festival of Trees celebration.

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

Crosscountry Mortgage, LLC, Plaintiff,
vs.
Hope A. Bockrath, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 26 074

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

404 W. Canal St., Antwerp
Parcel Number: 12-34S-086-00

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at:
pauldingcountyrecorder.com

Said premises appraised at Ninety-Nine Thousand and NO/100 ($99,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the October 29, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov.

Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on November 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 ($5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

ARCHERS BATTLE AT THE RANGE, BUT FAIRVIEW PULLS AWAY A VICTORY



Freshman Shaun Harvey on the offense as he drives through the Archer defense to score the first touchdown. More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Antwerp's Parker Lucas sneaks past the defense for a long run for the touchdown! Bulldog freshman Izzic Hobeck attempts to stop Lucas. *More pictures at engagingexposures.com*

ANTWERP, OH – The Antwerp Archers faced a tough challenge on their home turf at The Range on Friday, October 9, as the Fairview Apaches used offensive attack and a strong defensive performance to claim a 42-6 victory.

Fairview jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the opening quarter before adding 14 points in the second. Antwerp managed to get on the scoreboard before halftime, but the Apaches carried a 22-6 advantage into the break. Neither team scored in the third quarter before Fairview erupted for 20 unanswered points in the fourth to seal the victory.

Despite the loss, Antwerp found some success moving the football, finishing with 198 yards of total offense, including 105 yards rushing and 93 yards passing.

Parker Lucas provided the Archers' lone touchdown, breaking through for a rushing score while leading the ground attack with 71 yards on seven carries, averaging an impressive 10.1 yards per attempt. Gage Clevinger added 39 yards on 13 carries, while Ryder Hines contributed four yards on eight attempts.

Through the air, Antwerp split quarterback duties between Carson Hughes and Ryder Hines. Hughes completed six of 12 passes for 58 yards, while Hines connected on five of 11 attempts for 40 yards.

Parker Bermejo led Antwerp's receiving corps with four catches for 41 yards. Brayden Fuller added four receptions for 30 yards, while Gage Clevinger hauled in a 13-yard pass. Weston Rhonehouse contributed a nine-yard reception, and Gabriel Wenzlick added a five-yard catch.

Fairview's offense proved difficult to contain, piling up 368 total yards, including 232 through the air and 136 on the ground.

Apaches quarterback Gavin Brown delivered a strong performance, throwing for 226 yards and three touchdowns despite one interception. Logan Olinger was a major offensive weapon, collecting 116 receiving yards and two touchdowns while adding 49 rushing yards.

Turnovers proved costly for the Archers, as Fairview intercepted three Antwerp passes and recovered two fumbles. Gavin Garza, Olinger and Brody Williams each recorded an interception for the Apaches, with Garza returning his pick for a touchdown.

Antwerp's defense also came up with a takeaway, as Gabe Wenzlick recorded an interception against the Fairview passing attack.

The Archers finished with 10 first downs compared to Fairview's 16. Antwerp was also flagged just three times for 20 yards, while the Apaches committed four penalties for 35 yards.

Clevinger contributed on special teams as well, returning five kickoffs for 80 yards. Fuller added an 11-yard kickoff return, while Bermejo returned one for eight yards.

The victory improved Fairview's record to 6-2 and marked the Apaches' fourth consecutive road win. Antwerp slipped to 3-5 on the season as the Archers continue navigating a challenging stretch of conference competition.

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Crossword Puzzle

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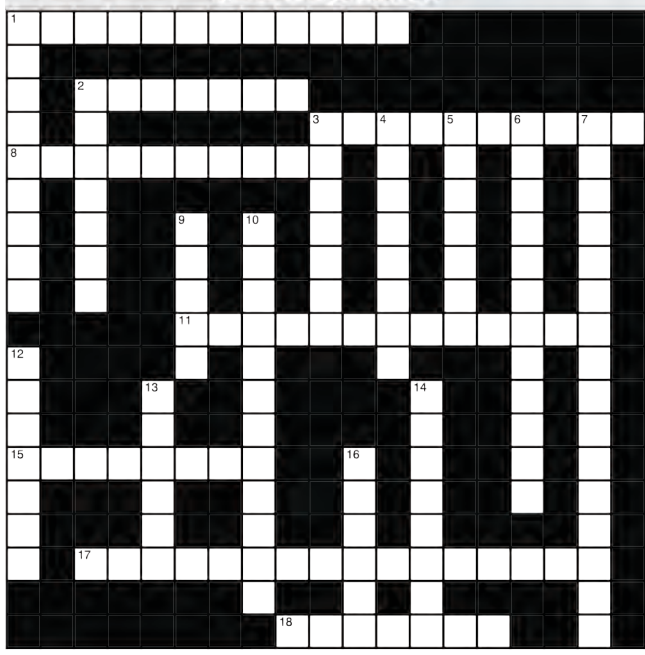

Across

1. Fictional New York village setting of Washington Irving's legendary story about a headless horseman.
2. Tiny white pumpkin variety popular for autumn displays and Halloween decorations.
3. Irish folklore character who tricked the Devil and was condemned to wander the earth with a glowing ember.
8. Popular nickname for a flattened, deeply ribbed pumpkin variety resembling a fairy-tale carriage.
11. Pumpkin variety famous for producing enormous specimens that can weigh more than a ton.
15. Small, sweet pumpkin variety commonly used for baking pies and desserts.
17. Heirloom pumpkin variety with a flattened shape resembling a wheel of cheese, prized for making pies.
18. Edible pumpkin seeds often roasted and enjoyed as a snack.

Down

1. Small baked treats traditionally offered to people who prayed for the souls of the dead during Allhallowtide.
2. Large outdoor fire traditionally associated with Samhain celebrations and believed in folklore to ward off harmful spirits.
3. Ancient Celtic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter.
4. American state responsible for producing more pumpkins than any other state in most recent years.
5. Scottish and Irish tradition of wearing disguises and visiting homes to perform songs or verses in exchange for treats.
6. Carved pumpkin illuminated from within to create a spooky Halloween decoration.
7. Traditional American pumpkin variety widely grown for carving and autumn decorations.
9. Pumpkin variety grown for its hull-less seeds, which are excellent for roasting.
10. Mysterious flickering light in European folklore believed to lure travelers into swamps and dangerous places.
12. Female spirit in Irish folklore whose eerie wailing is believed to foretell a death.
13. Illinois community widely recognized as the Pumpkin Capital of the World because of its pumpkin-processing industry.
14. Animal associated with witches and supernatural beliefs in European Halloween folklore.
16. Root vegetable traditionally carved into lanterns in Ireland before pumpkins became popular.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL
Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879
Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

LEGAL NOTICE

CI 26 151

Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC
-VS-
ROBERT GRUBB, et al.

PAULDING COUNTY
SARAH JO HARPEL
CLERK OF COURTS
2026 OCT 13 PM 12:17

Robert Grubb, whose last place of residence is known as 303 Klingler Road, Paulding, OH 45879, but whose present place of residence is unknown and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Robert Grubb, whose present place of residence is unknown, will take notice that on August 11, 2026, Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC filed its Complaint in Case No. CI 26 151 in the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding County, 115 N. Williams Street, Suite 201, Paulding, OH 45879, seeking foreclosure and alleging that the Defendants Robert Grubb and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Robert Grubb have or claim to have an interest in the real estate described below:

Permanent Parcel #: 23-50S-022-00

Property Address: 303 Klingler Road, Paulding, OH 45879

The Defendant(s) named above are required to answer on or before the **30th day of November, 2026.**

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC
BY: LOGS Legal Group LLP
Kirsten R. Armstrong
4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 320
Norwood, OH 45212
(513) 396-8100

Respectfully Submitted,
Kirsten R. Armstrong
Signed with Stamp

LOGS Legal Group LLP
Tamara Gurchik (0090798)
Anthony Santiago (0096221)
Kirsten R. Armstrong (0091424)
4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 320
Norwood, OH 45212
Phone: (513) 396-8100
Fax: (847) 627-8805
Email: logsoik@logs.com
Counsel for Plaintiff

KB SUPER KIDS HIT 100 BOOK CHALLENGE GOAL!



On the last day of the 1st nine weeks the KB Super Kids in Mrs. Miller's Kindergarten class listened to their 100th book! Mrs. Arellano had the honor of reading the 100th book during their library time. These students have learned so much in the first quarter and have a lot to be proud of. Keep up the great work, Super Kids! They are ready to start working on their next 100 Book Challenge.

GROVER HILL ELEM. ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Student of the Month at Grover Hill Elementary. Front row, left to right: Teagan Stoller, Lydia Reichert, Delilah Denny, Abbey Proctor, Wyatt Spencer, Ayrabella Spangler, Manuel Negrete-Pawoli, Chase Keeran. Back row, left to right: Seth Hurd, Henry Thomas, Weslen Tucker, Lane Noffsinger, Ava Beining Aden Stoller. Not Present: Chloe Harris and Luke Reichert.

JOIN US FOR WEEDS UNIVERSITY



PAULDING, Ohio (October 12, 2026) — Ohio State University Extension invites crop producers, pesticide applicators, land owners, Certified Crop Advisors (CCAs), and agronomy professionals to attend the regional Weeds University event on Thursday, November 19, 2026, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. This hybrid program will take place at seven sites across the state: Miami, Morrow, Muskingum, Paulding, Pike, Preble, and Putnam counties. This program is designed to keep applicators and producers on the cutting edge of weed control.

Topics will include pre-harvest weed survey results, sprayer setup, cover crops, harvest weed seed control, Italian ryegrass, new herbicides, and labeling updates. Hands-on exercises such as weed ID with live plants will also be part of the program. This is an in-person event with a portion of the presentations being broadcast virtually at each location.

Featured presentations and speakers include:

• Nozzle Selection – Dr. Tommy Butts, Assistant Professor and Site-Specific Weed Management Extension

Specialist, Purdue University. Dr. Butts leads a research and extension program evaluating weed control and herbicide use in agronomic crops, with an emphasis on precision agriculture and application technologies in a targeted, site-specific approach. This talk will cover nozzle selection and how to configure a sprayer setup for different types of applications.

• Italian ryegrass Control – Dr. Larry Steckel, Professor and Row Crop Weeds Specialist, University of Tennessee. Dr. Steckel's research and extension program evaluates novel integrated weed management technologies in Tennessee row crop agriculture. This talk will cover herbicide programs and control considerations for Italian ryegrass management in row crops.

• New Herbicide Options and ESA Labeling – Dr. Alyssa Essman, Assistant Professor & Agronomic Extension Weeds Specialist, The Ohio State University. Dr. Essman provides leadership for an applied research and extension program for integrated weed management in agronomic crops. This talk will cover new herbicide options for the 2027 growing season and an update on EPA/ESA regulations.

• Harvest Weed Seed Control Options for Ohio – Dr. Eugene Law, Assistant Professor, Weed Ecology, The Ohio State University. Dr. Law's research program is focused on the areas of weed ecology and precision technology for novel integrated weed management. This talk will cover different options for weed control at harvest and their relative efficacy.

• Optimizing Cover Crop Integration for Improved Weed Control Across Cropping Systems – Dr. Ram Yadav, Assistant Professor and Specialty Crop Extension Weeds Specialist, The Ohio State University. Dr. Yadav leads a research and extension program focused on weed management in vegetables and other specialty crops.

This talk will review the use of cover crops in cropping systems and their efficacy for weed management.

The registration is due November 11, 2026. This fee includes lab and course materials. Lunch in Paulding County is being provided by Mercer Landmark. Registration is limited to 40 individuals per site. On-site walk-ins are not available for this event; be sure to register in advance to secure a spot. Commercial and private pesticide and Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) credits will be available. Online registration will begin on Monday, September 28 at this link: Go.osu.edu/26WeedsUniv or the QR code below. All registration will continue via a central location.

A special thanks to the Ohio Soybean Council and Mercer Lankmark for their sponsorship in Paulding County. For questions about the Paulding County event call (419)399-8225 and ask for Sarah Noggle or email her at noggle.17@osu.edu

For additional information on the other event locations, contact the educator in the county you plan to attend:

• Miami - Amanda Bennett, bennett.709@osu.edu

• Morrow - Carri Jagger, jagger.6@osu.edu

• Muskinghum - Clifton Martin, martin.2422@osu.edu

• Paulding - Sarah Noggle, noggle.17@osu.edu

• Pike - Amanda Perkins, perkins.715@osu.edu

• Preble - Savannah Ballweg, ballweg.9@osu.edu

• Putnam - Beth Scheckelhoff, scheckelhoff.11@osu.edu

For more information about agronomy, farm management, livestock or home horticulture questions in Paulding County contact Sarah Noggle, Extension Educator at (419)399-8225 or by emailing noggle.17@osu.edu.

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

PAULDING'S FFA TRAPSHOOTING TEAM IS OFF TO A GREAT START!



Pictured left to right are those who participated: Lane Sprow, Owen Workman, Blake Trausch, Sal Biliti, Harley Troyer, Remington Boroff, Nolan Schlatter, Lily Leatherman and Brody Pease.

By: Makenna Manz, Paulding FFA Reporter

On Saturday, September 27th, nine Paulding FFA members came out to participate in the September trapshoot at the Paulding Fish and Game Center.

This was the second trapshoot of the school year. Troy Zeller from the Paulding Fish and Game club reviewed safety and the event rules with members before they received their equipment.

Contestants grabbed earplugs, safety glasses, and their firearms to compete in the contest. At the range, contestants are then separated into different squads where they will rotate through 5 different shooting positions. Members competing were Nolan Schlatter, Owen Workman, Remington Boroff, Brody Pease, Sal Biliti, Blake Trausch, Lane Sprow, Lily Leatherman, and Harley Troyer. Remington Boroff won the plaque sponsored by our FFA Chapter.

Harley Troyer and Lane Sprow tied for 2nd and Sal Biliti placed 3rd. We would like to thank the Fish and Game Club and its members for all their help and support for the Paulding FFA program. The next trapshoot is scheduled for October 31st at 12pm at the Paulding Fish and Game Club.

PAULDING FFA STUDENTS COMPETE AT DISTRICT SOILS CONTEST



Pictured left to right are Paulding FFA members who competed in the district soils: Kendall Kohart, Weston Manz, Gavin Parrett, Nolan Schlatter, Hudson Spangler, Balan Miller, Tucker Stoller, Piper Pease and Darcy Taylor.

By: Paulding FFA Reporter, Makenna Manz

On September 29th, 9 members from the Paulding FFA Chapter competed in District 4 Soils CDE at Kaleidoscope Farms. These students either choose to focus on urban or agriculture soils judging. Students survey soil pits, take a general knowledge test, and take a test over the soil survey for the area.

When the students are at the pits, they are judging the pit on the soil texture, structure, slope, drainage class, and compaction. The urban team must answer questions about whether the soil is good for building structures and the agriculture soils team answers questions about how suitable the soil is for agricultural use.

The Ag soils team placed 17th in the district. The team was made up of Tucker Stoller, Balan Miller, Piper Pease, Hudson Spangler and Gaving Parrett. Standout among the team was Tucker Stoller who placed 48th. The urban soils team placed 17th, top finisher from this team being Nolan Schlatter who placed 57th.

The team was made up of Weston Manz, Nolan Schlatter, Kendall Kohart, and Darcy Taylor. This was the first CDE of the year and we want to applaud both teams for their efforts and for representing Paulding FFA proudly at the district competition.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Joseph D. Blaze IV, Perrysburg, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Blaze was fined $30, with no additional court costs assessed.

Brenda S. Moulton, Payne, was found guilty of a stop sign violation following a bench trial. Moulton was fined $45 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs. Sheriff's fees were waived.

Seirria R. Kupfersmith, Paulding, was found guilty of failure to confine a dog. Kupfersmith was fined $25 and ordered to pay $102 in court costs. She was ordered to maintain good behavior.

Anthony J. Alamia, Fostoria, was found guilty of domestic violence. Alamia was fined $150 and ordered to pay $230 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 176 days suspended, and placed on standard probation. Alamia was ordered to complete a risk assessment, an evaluation, online classes, 20 hours of community service and the Keeping It in Check class. He was also ordered to have no unlawful contact with the victim.

Gerald R. Crone, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to physical control of a vehicle. Crone was fined $250 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from Oct. 13, 2026, through Oct. 13, 2027. Crone may attend a driver intervention program in lieu of three days in jail. He may also petition the court to reduce his license suspension to six months after successfully completing six months of an ignition interlock device program. Proof of insurance was provided. A companion charge of having an open container was dismissed.

Kaitlin E. Gibson, Woodburn, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Gibson was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Terrance J. Landwehr, Paulding, domestic violence was dismissed without prejudice at the state's request. Court costs were waived.

Dovetail Development Ltd., Paulding, junk ordinance, dismissed at the village's request. The company was ordered to pay $97 in court costs.

Elissa A. Nation, Grover Hill, was found guilty of a junk ordinance violation following a bench trial. Nation was fined $200 and ordered to pay $105 in court costs. The court indicated that fines and costs may be waived if proof of camper registration is provided within 60 days. Nation was found not guilty of a separate junk ordinance charge.

James R. Nation, Grover Hill, two junk ordinance charges, dismissed by the court. Court costs were waived.

Tony B. Miller, Paulding, junk ordinance, dismissed at the village's request. Court costs were waived.

Clara A. Rohdy, Paulding, junk ordinance, dismissed. Court costs were waived.

Brian M. Cereghin, Defiance, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Cereghin was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

George M. Gibson, Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Gibson was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Mya B. Endicott, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. Endicott was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Mykal B. Files, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Files was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Joshua K. Clark, Paulding, obstructing charge, dismissed.

Madison R. Watson, Payne, pleaded guilty to driving left of center. Watson was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Coty Franklin, Payne, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Franklin was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Lola L. Brown, La Porte, Texas, pleaded guilty to a no-through-trucks violation. Brown was fined $55 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Kayla N. Gladieux, Van Wert, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Gladieux was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Caden L. Burroughs, Ney, pleaded guilty to failure to control. Burroughs was fined $70 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Ean R. Seibert, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Seibert was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Benjamin D. Hurley, Albion, Michigan, pleaded guilty to telecommunications harassment. Hurley was fined $100 and ordered to pay $374 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended. Hurley was also ordered to pay $381.60 in restitution, have no contact with the victim, follow all orders of the civil protection order and write a letter of apology.

Charlotte Holt, Paulding, was found guilty of driving while texting. Holt was fined $150 and ordered to pay $95 in court costs.

Kevin W. Carlisle, Grover Hill, pleaded no contest and was found guilty of theft. Carlisle was fined $100 and ordered to pay $159 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended. Carlisle was ordered to pay $19 in restitution and have no contact with the Grover Hill Dollar General. Of the 10 days of jail time to be served, he received credit for four days and was ordered to remain in jail to complete the remaining six days.

Thomas G. Sinn, Haviland, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. Sinn was fined $30 and ordered to pay $57 in court costs.

Wendy A. McCourt, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. McCourt was fined $55 and ordered to pay $100 in court costs.

PAULDING COUNTY PROBATE COURT MARRIAGE APPLICATION REPORTS

Coli Rose Talbott, (25), Paulding, OH, Registered nurse; Peter Louis Ankerman (25), Paulding, OH, Assembly technician

PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL TRAIN CRASH

]The Toledo Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash involving a train. The crash occurred on October 11, 2026, at approximately 11:58 p.m. on Albon Road near State Route 2 in Springfield Township, Lucas County.

A 2023 Ford Maverick, driven by Michael Jones, age 57 of Monclova, Ohio, was southbound on Albon Road. A train was traveling westbound and was struck by Mr. Jones.

Mr. Jones' vehicle overturned on the west side of the road.

Mr. Jones was pronounced deceased on scene. No injuries were reported by occupants on

the train. Mr. Jones was not wearing a safety belt, and alcohol does not app ear to be a factor in the crash.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Lucas County Sheriff's Office, Holland Police Department, and Springfield Township Fire Department. The roadway was closed for 5 hours. Motorists are reminded to always wear a safety belt when in a vehicle.

The crash remains under investigation.

Classified Ads

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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 262, Antwerp, OH 45813
Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!

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

FOR SALE: Steel 11 drawer cabinet. Good condition, no rust. Dimensions: 27.5" x 21" x 37.5". Each drawer about 3" tall. $50. Call 419-782-9898

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

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 42-44

DEWALT PORTABLE POWER STATION DCB1800 4 battery Charger/inverter - $300. Call 419-258-0127

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

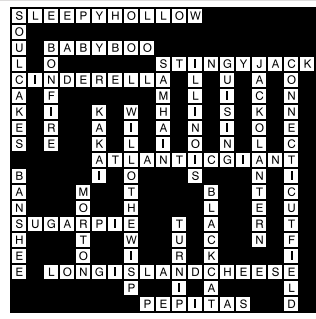
BUYING OLD Collections, coins, postcards, comics, toys, knives, watches, jewelry, trading cards, paper antiques, pens, zippos & lighters, pins. 419-786-9514. Text or call. tf

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email:
InnovativeAssemblySvcs@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



Crossword solution from page 9

HELP WANTED

Village of Hicksville is taking applications for a full-time **Park & Recreation Director**. This is a salary position and duties will include but not limited to groundskeeping of park, repairs, painting, cleaning restrooms, athletic field prepping, managing part time employees, maintenance of all parks equipment, managing special programs as needed along with applying for funding for future needs and additions to the parks department.

Applications can be obtained online at **www.villageofhicksville.com** or in person at the **Municipal Building, 111 South Main St. Hicksville, Ohio 43526**.

Questions can be directed to the Administrators Office **419-542-6138 ext. 6.**

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE opening for a Journeyman Electrician or Apprentice wanting to become a journeyman

We are an Electrical Contractor Business:
40% - Residential, 50% - Generac generator installation & service, 10% - light commercial & service work

Must have a good work ethic, valid drivers license, own tools and must be ON TIME!

Competitive pay based on experience.

EXCELLENT career opportunity for the right person.

Paid vacation, holidays, and profit sharing

Send resume to: gerberselectric@metalink.net

HELP WANTED

The Village of Hicksville is seeking a dedicated, experienced, and highly qualified professional to serve as our full-time Water Superintendent.

Under the direction of the Village Administration and Council, the Water Superintendent oversees the daily operations, maintenance, testing, and regulatory compliance of the Village's water treatment and distribution systems, ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for the community.

Send resume to Mayor Michael Barth at hixmayor@metalink.net or call for appointment: 419-542-6138, option 4.

Key Responsibilities:

- Operations & Maintenance: Manage the operation and maintenance of the municipal water treatment plant, wells, storage facilities, booster stations, and distribution network.
- Regulatory Compliance: Ensure strict adherence to Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) standards, Safe Drinking Water Act guidelines, and OSHA safety regulations.
- Testing & Reporting: Oversee required water quality testing, chemical dosing, and the timely submission of all state and federal environmental compliance reports.
- Personnel Management: Supervise, train, and evaluate utility department staff, manage scheduling, and coordinate work orders.
- Budget & Administration: Assist in developing and managing the annual department budget, track utility inventory, order supplies, and oversee equipment maintenance records.
- Customer Service: Respond to public inquiries, investigate water quality or pressure complaints, and coordinate with other municipal departments on infrastructure projects.
- Emergency Response: Participate in an on-call rotation to handle after-hours water system emergencies, main breaks, or equipment failures.

Qualifications & Requirements:

- Licensure: Valid Ohio EPA Class I (or higher) Water Supply Operator Certification (Class II or III preferred; ability to upgrade within a specified timeframe may be considered for qualified candidates).
- Driver's License: Valid State of Ohio Driver's License with an acceptable driving record (Commercial Driver's License [CDL] or willingness to obtain one is a plus).
- Experience: Minimum of 3 to 5 years of progressively responsible experience in municipal water treatment and distribution operations, including at least 1–2 years in a supervisory or lead role.
- Education: High school diploma or equivalent; associate or bachelor's degree in environmental science, civil engineering, biology, or a related field is preferred.
- Skills: Strong mechanical aptitude, working knowledge of SCADA systems and water treatment automation, proficiency in record-keeping, and excellent communication skills.

Compensation & Benefits:

- Salary Range: Competitive salary based on qualifications and certification level.
- Benefits Package:
  - Comprehensive health, dental, and vision insurance.
  - Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS).
  - Paid time off (vacation, sick leave, and paid holidays).
  - Professional development and certification cost support

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

HELP WANTED

ADMINISTRATOR • VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE

The Village of Hicksville is accepting resumes to fill the position of Village Administrator. Hicksville is a village of 3,800 residents in NW Ohio with an annual budget of $12m. This position serves as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Village and is responsible for oversight of the Water, Sewer, Street, Refuse, Park and Zoning Departments as well as performing all duties required by the Ohio Revised Code and the Ordinances of the Village of Hicksville. Qualified candidates should be self-motived, well organized, detail oriented, possess good communication skills and can work with other Village, County, State and Federal agencies in an appropriate manner. Experience with budgeting and knowledge of funding sources a plus. Salary range will be based on experience. The person selected will be expected to be or become a resident of the Village of Hicksville.

Resumes will be accepted at the Mayor's office, 111 South Main Street, Hicksville, OH 43526 or hixmayor@metalink.net until October 15, 2026.

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

NOTICE OF POSITION OPENING

The Paulding County Engineer's Office has an immediate opening for a **full time/permanent Superintendent**. The responsibilities of this job include overseeing the activities of the Operations Facility to achieve the plans and goals of the County Engineer. Plans work and assigns priorities for culvert and road construction, drainage and maintenance activities according to the Engineer's policies and plans; supervises and inspects all projects. Performs related administrative and other duties as required by the County Engineer.

This position is eligible for health, dental and vision insurance. An Ohio Commercial Driver's License with Air Brake and Tanker Endorsement or the ability to obtain this license within 180 days is required for this position. Candidates must be able to pass a pre-employment drug screen and DOT physical. The starting wage rate for this position shall commensurate with experience.

Applications are available at **www.pauldingcountyengineer.com/applications-permits or at the Engineer's Office at 801 West Wayne Street in Paulding**. Applications may be delivered to the Engineer's Office Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm or emailed to engineer@pcohio.us and will be accepted **through October 31, 2026.**

This position will be awarded to the best-qualified individual(s) as determined by the Engineer. Applicants may be required to demonstrate their ability to perform in this position by way of a practical test and examination.

Phone: 419-258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net

METAL DETECTORS TO TALK ABOUT RAILROAD, GHOST TOWN, CIVIL WAR FINDS OCT. 20



Mike Iler (left) and Mike Speiser will be guest speakers at Paulding County History Museum Oct. 20. Both avid metal detectors, they will discuss finds related to "Railroads, Ghost Towns and the Civil War."

PAULDING – "Railroads, Ghost Towns and the Civil War" will be the subjects of guest speakers Mike Iler and Mike Speiser at the Paulding County History Museum at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 20, 2026.

The men, both Paulding County residents, will share stories behind some of the interesting artifacts they have found in the county while metal detecting.

The program and meeting are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the program. Guests may tour the museum before and after the meeting.

The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding, across from the fairgrounds. It is open every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH INVITES COMMUNITY TO FALL EVENTS, WORSHIP, AND FELLOWSHIP

HICKSVILLE, OHIO — St. John Lutheran Church, located at 812 East High Street in Hicksville, invites area residents to join in its fall activities, community outreach programs, and opportunities for worship and fellowship.

On Saturday, October 31, the church will host its annual Trunk-or-Treat from 3:00-4:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. A Fall Festival will follow from 5:00-7:00 p.m., featuring a friendly chili cook-off, games for children and adults, and other family-friendly activities. Proceeds from the festival will help fund a new electronic outdoor sign for the church.

Serving the community is an important part of St. John's ministry. On the last Thursday of each month, the church provides a free community meal, available for pickup beginning at 5:00 p.m. at the church's carport entrance. A self-service outdoor food pantry, located beside the handicap-accessible ramp at the front of the church, is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Community members are welcome to take what they need or leave donations for others. A larger indoor food pantry, offering a more extensive selection of food, is also open from 4 to 6 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month.

Under the leadership of Minister Alex Heffelfinger, St. John offers a variety of worship and fellowship opportunities throughout the week. Sunday mornings begin at 9:15 a.m. with S.A.L.T. (Sharing and Learning Together), an adult Sunday school class led by Gabe Oberlin. Traditional worship begins at 10:15 a.m., with Children's Church offered during the service. Worship features pipe organ and piano music, along with monthly performances by the church's chimes group.

Sunday evenings at 6:30 p.m. feature The Gathering, a relaxed, informal opportunity to explore Scripture, ask questions, share ideas, and grow in faith together. Each week offers something a little different, from Bible studies and discussions to music, messages, and special activities. Everyone is welcome, whether they prefer to join the conversation or simply listen.

Wednesday mornings feature Bible study and prayer beginning at 10 a.m., with participants often gathering afterward for lunch at a local restaurant.

Whether attending a worship service, enjoying a community meal, participating in a Bible study, or joining a special event, St. John Lutheran Church welcomes everyone to come and be part of its community.

For more information about services, ministries, or upcoming events, contact the church office at 419-542-6269.

PLEASE JOIN US!

FOUR DAYS. ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION.

DATES: Tuesday, October 20th through Friday, October 23rd, 2026

LOCATION: Black Swamp Nature Center
753 Fairground Drive • Paulding, Ohio 45879

HOURS: 7:00 am - 9:00 am

AVAILABLE BLOOD TESTING

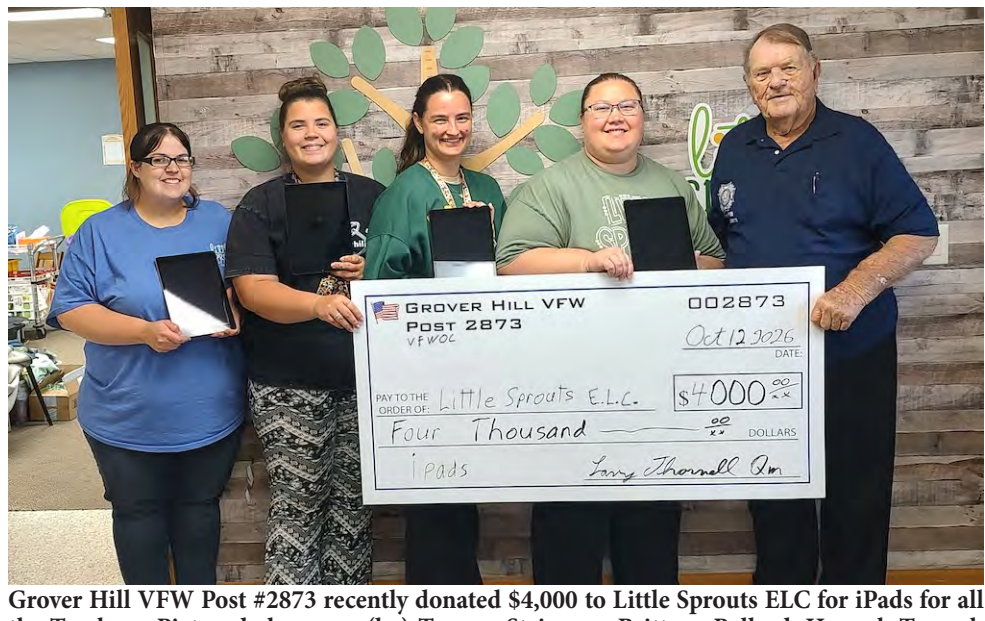
Comprehensive Health Panel $30.00
Thyroid Screening $15.00
Hepatitis C Screening $15.00
Hemoglobin A1C $15.00
PSA $20.00
Vitamin D $20.00

Registration available the day of fair or pre-registration packets are available at all Paulding County Hospital locations and online at pauldingcountyhospital.com. Cash and check accepted the day of the fair. Credit Card accepted ONLY when pre-registered.

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

1035 West Wayne Street • Paulding, Ohio 45879 • 419.399.4080 • pauldingcountyhospital.com

GROVER HILL VFW POST 2873 MAKES LOCAL DONATIONS



Grover Hill VFW Post #2873 recently donated $4,000 to Little Sprouts ELC for iPads for all the Teachers. Pictured above are (l-r) Tammy Steingass, Brittany Pollard, Hannah Trausch Amber Gochenour, and Roger Taylor.



Grover Hill VFW Post 2873 recently donated $5,000 to the Middle Creek Cemetery Headstone Restoration Fund through the Paulding County Area Foundation. Pictured above are (l-r) Roger Taylor, Mark Miller, Cheryl Miller, and Larry Thornell.

GIRL SCOUTS TO HOST INFORMATION MEETING IN ANTWERP OCTOBER 27

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio will host an informational meeting on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Antwerp Local Schools cafeteria, located at 303 S. Harrmann Road, Antwerp. Girls interested in joining Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend with their parents or guardians to learn about the program, upcoming adventures, skill-building opportunities and ways adults can get involved. Financial assistance is available to Paulding County families. Those unable to attend can learn more at gswo.org/getstarted. For additional information, contact Taylor Perley at 419-887-9465 or taylorperley@gswo.org.

PAULDING COUNTY LAND BANK CONTINUES BROWNFIELD, REVITALIZATION, AND PROPERTY PROJECTS

The Paulding County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) met this week to review ongoing brownfield remediation, community revitalization efforts, and property management initiatives across the county.

The meeting opened with a presentation from Austin Scheiner, Treasurer of the Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Board. On behalf of PCED, Scheiner requested that the Land Bank consider allocating a portion of future solar lease income from the Grizzly brownfield solar project to the PCED budget. He noted that PCED Director Tim Copsey has played a central role in initiating remediation at the former asbestos brake manufacturing site and in developing what could become the first revenue generated from the property since the early 1980s.

Given Copsey's work—along with other PCED efforts that have increased county revenue—the request proposes that solar lease income could support long-term PCED office growth. The Land Bank Committee agreed to review the proposal and expressed interest in a structure that includes future renewal agreement evaluations. A meeting will be scheduled to review the proposal.

The committee then received updates on multiple brownfield related properties, including:

- Stokely, Grizzly, and 495 E. Perry Street sites in Paulding
- 201 N. First Street and 501 North Avenue properties in Oakwood
- The vacant Oak Street corner lot in Payne
- 413 & 415 W. River Street properties in Antwerp

Discussion then shifted to residential initiatives. The Land Bank owns a Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) grant-funded, rehabilitated home at 621 Sugar Street in Paulding, now ready for sale to an income-qualified applicant. To gauge interest and improve marketing, the committee will host open houses on October 27 and October 29. The next WHO grant home will soon begin construction at 833 W. Jackson Street in Paulding soon.

Additional Land Bank business included:

- The committee approved advertising and selling two parcels located at 355 and 356 N. Sherman Street in Scott via silent auction.
- MVPO representative Estee Blair reported that Maumee Valley Lands subcommittee has secured an attorney to assist with future Paulding County WHO grant land transactions.
- Noted the recently purchased property at 10397 State Route 49 has been mowed and trees trimmed to end the year and now awaits further evaluation and potential blight removal funding.
- Approved discussions with owners regarding two newly identified property purchase opportunities.
- Minutes from the September meeting and the October 5 special meeting were approved.
- Reported a current financial balance of $191,237.73.

DPLS HOSTS ANNUAL TEEN FAN FICTION WRITING CONTEST

Young writers are invited to let their imaginations take the wheel during Defiance Public Library System's annual Fan Fiction Writing Contest for grades 6-12, taking place November 1–30.

The contest challenges participants to write an original 1,000–3,000-word story (PG-13) inspired by a book, television show, video game, or movie of their choosing.

Entries may be submitted by email to prellstab@defiancelibrary.org or dropped off at any Defiance Public Library System location: Defiance Public Library, Sherwood Branch Library, or Johnson Memorial Library in Hicksville.

The contest winner will be notified by phone no later than December 7. The winning story will be featured in the 2027 editions of the YA Squeeze Newsletter and made available in print at DPLS libraries.

Complete contest rules and submission information are available at defiancelibrary.org/fanfic.