

DONATION SUPPORTS MUCH-NEEDED BLEACHER UPGRADES AT PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL



Pictured above are PEVS Treasurer, Jake Thiel, Dianne Cooper, and PEVS Superintendent, Chris Etzler.

Dianne Cooper presented a monetary donation towards the replacement cost of the bleachers in the Paulding High School gymnasium. The Panther staff and students appreciate Ms. Cooper's generosity toward this much-needed upgrade! The bleachers in the gym are 40 years old;

and even with regular maintenance and inspections, some sections are becoming unsafe and beyond repair. Large projects such as this are on the District's list to be addressed with our permanent improvement funds as they become available. We are very grateful to Ms. Cooper's donation!

Caring & Sharing FOOD PANTRY CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTY RAISED \$5,700 FROM SIBERIAN SOLSTICE CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Caring & Sharing Food Pantry raised more than \$5,700 from a silent auction

and fundraising concert by Siberian Solstice on Nov. 15. About 30 percent of that money will go to Paulding Schools' Blessings in a Bag program. The balance will help fund the food pantry operations in 2026.

The pantry's purpose is to support Paulding County residents who are experiencing food insecurity. They provide

eligible families at least three days of food, twice per month based on the number of people in their households. Blessings in a Bag is a grassroots, student-designed project that provides weekend food during the school year for more than 150 students from Paulding and Oakwood elementary schools.

Thanks to the following churches that provided financial sponsorships for the fundraising: Bethel Christian Church of Arthur, Branch Christian Fellowship, CORE Ministries, Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, First Christian Church of Paulding, First Presbyterian Church of Paulding, Rose Hill Church of God, Paulding United Methodist Church, St. John Lutheran Church of Briceton, and St. Paul Lutheran Church of Paulding.

The following individuals and businesses donated items for the silent auction: Ann and Con Shuherk, Brandon Knott of "It's Knott Pottery," Ebel's Butcher Shop, E&R Ceramics, Gloria Craig of Emerald Forest Pottery, Kate's Kustom Wreaths, KP Boot Company, Paulding Ace Hardware, Paulding County Carnegie Library, Petals and Vines, Ron Mapes, Signature Embroidery, Staci Kaufman, Sue Beck, and other anonymous donors.

Siberian Solstice is a 12-member, Trans-Siberian-Orchestra style band from Defiance, Ohio, that performs

(Continued on Page 3)

NOCAC RECEIVES \$4,962 GRANT TO SUPPORT RENT READY PROGRAM



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Jamie Huber - PATH Center Director, Kaylea Scott - PATH Center Manager and Jim Williams - DAF Past President.

Congratulations to Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission for receiving a \$4,962 grant during the Defiance Area Foundation's (DAF) fall 2025 grant cycle. This grant was awarded from the DAF Community Fund

and will be used to support NOCAC's Rent Ready program. This program is designed to help individuals with rental barriers such as budgeting, repairing credits, dealing with landlords etc.

EMERAL TWP ZONING MEETING SCHEDULED

Emerald Township zoning commission will hold public meeting **Thursday, January 22, 2026.**

Emerald Township residents who have questions or concerns about the Paulding County township's zoning regulations are encouraged to attend a public meeting of the Emerald Township zoning commission starting at 6:30

p.m. on Thursday, January 22 at the Emerald Township building located at the corner of Roads 133 and 218 about one mile north of State Route 111.

The meeting with the five member zoning commission is not a public hearing for any proposed change in the township's zoning regulations. Rather, the meeting is intended to be a listening session about any concerns

(Continued on Page 2)

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Quality Amish Construction	10
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Schmucker Decks	1
Seslar obituary	2
United Edge JAN 26 TOYS	12
Village of Scott Legal Notice	9

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

January 12

- Teen Anger Management Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding, 4-5p
- Member Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p

January 13

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- Friends & Fam. Support Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding 6-7p
- Fort Wayne Farm Show @ Allen Co. Coliseum, 9a-5p

January 14

- Fort Wayne Farm Show @ Allen Co. Coliseum, 9a-8p

January 15

- Fort Wayne Farm Show @ Allen Co. Coliseum, 9a-4 p
- Craft Night @ More Than Boutique, Antwerp, 6-8p
- Friends of the Paulding Park District Annual Meeting @ Black Swamp Nature Center, 5:30p

January 19

- Paulding FOE #2405 Ladies Aux. Meeting, 7pm
- Teen Anger Management Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding, 4-5p
- Defiance Public Library CLOSED

January 20

- Free Expungement Presentation @ Ivy Tech North Campus, 6-7p
- Microsoft 365 Excel Training @ NSCC, Archbold, 8a-4p



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OBITUARIES



PAULDING, OH:

Charles V. Seslar, 56, passed away Saturday December 20, 2025 in Fort Wayne. Charlie was born in Paulding OH on September 11, 1969, the son of Mary Janet (Pierce) Seslar and the late Rex Charles Seslar.

Charlie is survived by his son, Charles A. Seslar of Antwerp OH; his mother, Janet Seslar of Woodburn; sisters, Connie Smith, Terrie Smith, Terry Edwards, and Patty Blake; brother, Andrew Seslar and several nieces & nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father Rex C Seslar; sisters, Adrienne O'Brien and Diane Eldridge; and brothers, Steve Seslar and Rick Seslar.

Memorial will be at a later date.



DEFIANCE, OH:

John Anthony Willitzer Jr., age 70 of Defiance, passed away on Monday, January 5, 2026 at The Laurels of Defiance.

He was born on March 15, 1955 in Defiance, Ohio to the late John A. and Rose (Reynolds) Willitzer. John was a 1974 graduate of Defiance High School. He proudly served 8 years in the U.S. Marine Corp. from 1974-1981, including 3 tours on Okinawa. He was very proud to be a Marine and talked about his service to anyone who would listen to him.

Upon being honorably discharged in 1981 he spent several years in Key West, Florida working as a body builder, a landscaper, and working with the Florida State Patrol.

John is survived by four siblings, Audrey (Barry) Roth, Mark (Laurie) Willitzer, Sandra (Tim) Hutson, all of Defiance, and Crystal Willitzer of Antwerp, Ohio. He also leaves behind six nieces, four

nephews, and many great-nieces, great-nephews, and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister Shelley Limber.

A Graveside Memorial Service will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026 at 10:00 am at Riverside Cemetery in Defiance, with Rev. David Brobst officiating. Military rites will be presented by VFW #3360.

Memorials are suggested to the U.S. Marines, Heartland Hospice, or to a charity of the donor's choice



ANTWERP, OH:

Wilfred (Willie) August Doll Jr., 78 of Antwerp OH passed away January 6, 2026, at home.

Willie was born in South Bend IN on June 22, 1947, son of the late Stella (Morozowski) and Wilfred A. Doll.

Willie worked at ITT for over 25 years as an aerospace engineer. He and his late wife Denise, married 56 years, were proprietors of Looking Back Antiques. He enjoyed taking care of his home, going to garage sales, swap meets, refurbishing gas pumps / furniture and antiques. Willie also had a passion for cars, owning and restoring several varieties: 1929 Model A Sport Coupe, Corvettes, Thunderbird and his beloved Paisley, a 1971 Dodge Challenger convertible.

Willie was a devoted and caring husband, father, brother and friend. He coached little league baseball and spent time attending his children and grandchildren's sporting events. He especially loved the Christmas holiday making his family feel special. He will be remembered for putting others needs before his own and lending a helping hand when needed.

He will be sadly missed by his children; Dawnita Doll & Matthew (Nicole) Doll; siblings Winifred Prysock, Marie (Dan) Moore and Darlene (Ted) Bradley; his two grandchildren Kaitlyn Moiser and Kaden Doll as well as many nieces and nephews.

Service is Saturday, January 10th at 10:30 AM with visitation from 9-10:30 AM at Dooley Funeral Home, Antwerp.

He will be laid to rest in Maumee Cemetery at a later date.

Memorials are to the Paulding County Nurses Auxiliary.

Fond memories may be shared at Dooleyfuneralhome.com.

FIVE PARKVIEW NURSES RECEIVE DAISY AWARDS

Five Parkview nurses were recognized this fall by The DAISY Foundation for extraordinary nursing.

The DAISY Foundation was founded in memory of Patrick Barnes, a 33-year-old man who spent eight weeks in a hospital being treated for an autoimmune disorder. During his stay, Barnes received excellent nursing care, and, in his memory, his family created The DAISY Award® to honor nurses who go above and beyond for their patients.

Recognized in 40 countries and territories, the Foundation has honored 220,000+ nurses across 6,500+ healthcare organizations and schools of nursing, with more than 2.5 million nominations submitted by patients, families and colleagues. The award not only recognizes nurses for exceptional care, but helps to inspire and engage co-workers, build team spirit and reinforce the importance of providing patient and family-centered care.

Between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, the following nurses received DAISY awards. For their individual award stories and photos, follow the links below to The DAISY Founda-



Joshua A Collins

tion website:

- Joshua Collins, ortho trauma, Parkview Regional



Jasmin R Hoot

Medical Center

- Jasmin Hoot, surgical trauma intensive care unit, Parkview Regional Medical



Ruthanne Y Miller

Center

- Ruthanne Miller, surgical assessment unit, Parkview DeKalb Hospital



Ruthanne Y Miller

- Brandi Million, family birthing center, Parkview Huntington Hospital
- Marcus Wells, cardiovascular intensive care unit,



Marcus P Wells

Parkview Heart Institute

"What motivates me most is knowing that for many patients and families, I may be the person they remember during some of the hardest moments of their lives," Hoot said. "Whether it's offering comfort, advocating for their needs, or simply being present, I strive to treat every patient as I would want my



Brandi L Million

own loved one treated."

"I felt honored and grateful to have received the DAISY award," Miller said. "It shows that both the big and small things that I do for my patients don't go unnoticed."

In total, 110 Parkview nurses have been honored with a DAISY award since 2021.

"Our DAISY nurses exemplify the excellent care our patients can expect at Parkview," said Juli Johnson, chief nursing and healthcare markets executive, Parkview Health. "These nurses go above and beyond to serve their patients by listening, building rapport and meeting their needs both on a clinical and personal level. Parkview delivers great care by nurses who care."

For more information about The DAISY Award, visit daisyfoundation.org.

Scripture of the Week

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

— Matthew 6:19-21

CONSISTENCY IN CHRIST



1 Corinthians 15:58 NKJV Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

Have you been serving the Lord, year after year, Day after day, service after service, and suddenly doubt falls on you like a ton of bricks. Then you ask yourself, What the heck am I doing this for?

This could be for different reasons. Maybe you need a vacation or more time in God's presence through fasting, prayer, and reading the word.

This scripture serves as a powerful encouragement to believers. Paul, the author, addresses the "beloved brethren," emphasizing a sense of community and deep affection for fellow believers.

The call to be "steadfast" and "immovable" highlights the importance of remaining firm in faith, regardless of challenges or distractions that may arise. This steadfastness is crucial in a world often

filled with uncertainty and temptation. It suggests a strong foundation in one's beliefs and commitment to God's work.

"Always abounding in the work of the Lord" urges believers to engage actively in their faith. It's a call to service, encouraging people to contribute positively in their lives and communities. This could include various acts of kindness, spreading the message of the Gospel, or simply living out one's faith authentically and wisely. Be sure you're hearing from the lord before you overload yourself.

Finally, the reassurance that "your toil is not in vain in the Lord" provides immense comfort. It reminds believers that their efforts—however small they may seem—are significant and recognized by God. This statement reinforces the idea that all work done in faith has eternal value and contributes to God's purpose.

In summary, this verse encourages perseverance, active engagement in faith, and the assurance of God's recognition of our efforts, ultimately serving as a reminder to stay committed to one's spiritual journey and to trust in the Lord. You don't want to get to Heaven with a long list of accomplishments only to hear the lord say, "I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO DO ALL THAT." Lol! I think you would rather hear, WELL DONE, MY GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

PEACE AND LOVE,
—Pastor Dwayne

(Continued from Page 1)

township residents may have about zoning.

Emerald Township voters approved the original zoning regulations in 1999. Those regulations have been updated four times since then. The most recent update occurred in 2023 to clarify the definition of "junk vehicles" and better define what is meant by "an owner-operated business in a parcel zoned rural residential."

Zoning commission chairperson Louis Levy explained the purpose of this meeting is simply to ask residents if the current zoning regulations are working to their satisfaction. And, if not, then listen to hear what they would like done and why. Past meetings have been held only after someone re-

quested and explained why they wanted changes to be made.

Residents who would like to share comments but don't want to attend an evening meeting can contact Levy by phone at 419-393-2515, by mail at 14165 State Route 637, Paulding, Ohio 45879 or by calling the number and requesting an email address where their comments can be sent. Persons leaving messages should include their name and a way to follow up on their concerns.

In the event of inclement weather on January 22, the meeting will be rescheduled for Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the township building.

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— Acts 18:9

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CHRISTMAS PAST

Penny For Your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

The last cookie has been eaten, the last gifts unwrapped, the wrapping paper has been put in the trash or stored away if anything is left. Christmas has always been my favorite holiday and whenever it's all over, I feel sad.

I miss the buying of gifts, the wrapping, baking, planning, celebrating, lights, and the birth of Jesus, and going to church. I stop and think of how everyone comes together and the memories and joy invade our mind and heart. Sometimes we think, "This is going to be the best Christmas ever." But even though, not all of my Christmas's have been filled with toys and gifts or candy, I can remember some of the gifts I got.



One Christmas, that I recall, is when I was 5 years old. My mom and dad had me close my eyes really tight and sit down at my little table. Then I was told "Put your hands down on the table." I heard a little tinkle tinkle, opened my eyes, and there was a little red piano. To those who know me, have heard or seen me some place playing the piano, and yes this old lady still tickles the ivories. So that little toy piano made this little girl happy.

One Christmas, I got a Fairy Tale book with different stories in it. One of the stories was "Hans Crinker and the Silver Skates." I became enthralled with that story and read it over and over. I wanted some silver skates and to go put my finger down in the wa-

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NSCC RECOGNIZES NURSING GRADUATES AT PINNING CEREMONY



NSCC Fall 2025 Practical Nursing graduates: (front, l-r) Vanessa Warnecke, Olivia Hammond, Madison Prince, Jaycea Craven. Back L to R: Marah Mason, Shyanna Harper, Sydney Nelson, Taylore Harman, Sierra Bair.

Northwest State Community College recognized its Nursing graduates at a recent pinning ceremony in the following areas: Practical Nursing (PN) and Registered Nursing (RN). The pinning ceremony took place on Monday, December 15th on the Archbold campus.

Graduates of the nursing programs are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) and enter directly into the workforce, or they may transfer their credits for additional study. During the ceremony, the College recognized seven students for induction into the Alpha Delta Chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society. In order to

qualify, students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with at least a B in all nursing classes.

Northwest State congratulates the following students for completing these health-care programs:

Practical Nursing:

Sierra Bair (Fort Wayne, IN), Jaycea Craven (Montpelier), Olivia Hammond (Hicksville), Taylore Harman (Napoleon), Shayanna Harper (Delta), Marah Mason (Wauseon), Sydney Nelson (Wauseon), Madison Prince (Edon), Vanessa Warnecke (Fort Jennings).

Registered Nursing:

Savanah Bergman (Minster), Jessica Bockover* (Bryan), Taylor Boger

(Lyons), Madison Chastain (Oakwood), Mary Anna Dinius (West Unity), Melissa French (Bryan), Lauren Hall (Swanton), Mykenzi Hartz* (Edgerton), Jody Henshaw* (Bryan), Cadence Hillard (Montpelier), Quinn Horn (Defiance), Lucas Jones (Delta), Emily Keeran* (Cloverdale), Ashlee Lyons* (Pioneer), Kiya McNeil (Montpelier), Kaylee Poorman (Wauseon), Mariah Schuller* (Bryan), Summer Strawser (Payne), Olivia Whitlock (Montpelier), Stewart Willis (Liberty Center), Christopher Yagel (Ney).

*Names with a * denote Alpha Delta Nu honors recipient*

a part of me, but I am not an angel, I would probably fall down carrying a lit candle, and as slow as I am now, it may take me all night to get up the aisle.

So much to recall about Christmas' past, but looking forward to all the future ones ... we never know, if Santa comes, he might be in a spaceship, reindeers may look like robots and hopefully brings me a new car.

I am a Christmas lover and the story and the celebration of the birth of Christ will never grow old.

What do you remember about your Christmas past? Did you hang stockings? What was your favorite most remembered gift.

Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

FRIENDS OF THE PAULDING PARK DISTRICT TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

Paulding — The Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc. (FOPPD) will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, January 15, at 5:30 p.m. at the Black Swamp Nature Center, located at 900 Fairground Drive in Paulding.

The meeting will include an update from Linda Hodges, President of the Paulding County Park District Board, and the election of Friends officers.

The annual meeting is open to the public, and community members are en-

couraged to attend. The Friends welcome input, ideas, and conversations about ways to enhance and support local park areas throughout Paulding County.

Over the past year, Friends of the Paulding Park District supported several improvements at New Rochester Park, including the installation of educational kiosks highlighting local history, Native American heritage, the Maumee River, and the park's nesting bald eagles. The Friends also supported enhancements to the park's natural playground, promoting outdoor play, learning, and family-friendly recreation.

Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote and support the Paulding County Park District for the benefit of all. Residents who care about outdoor spaces, recreation, and conservation are invited to join the discussion and learn more about the organization's ongoing efforts.

For more information, community members are encouraged to attend the meeting and follow Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc. on Facebook for updates.

—Julie Anna Densmore
President, Friends of the Paulding Park District, Inc.

(Continued from Page 1)

contemporary and traditional Christmas music featuring vocals, electronic keyboards, guitars and drums.

Follow the Caring & Shar-

ing Food Pantry on Facebook at www.facebook.com/caring-sharingfoodpantry. Or for more information, contact the pantry at (419) 399-9562 or info@caresharepantry.org.

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

Send your news, ads, and classifieds to
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Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry An Interesting Letter

Corporal Royce E. Smith wrote the following to his parents Mr. and Mrs. Altie Smith, Broughton, Ohio.

Dear Folks, With all the turmoil and excitement, I have finally found a little time this morning to send a line.

You probably read of the terrific artillery barrage laid down preceding the attack on D-Day. I had a ringside seat. I've been reading all those places you have been reading about in the papers. You can't imagine how completely demolished these places are after they have underwent these terrific bombardments. Rubble is certainly an adequate term.

I have either found or have in possession a lot of things you would prize highly as souvenirs.

Some of the German equipment shows great ingenuity. For instance, they have a flexible cleaning rod. I have one and using it. That is an improvement over our steel rod, since ours is more difficult to carry. When you move so rapidly, it is your advantage to carry as little as possible.

There is a story behind the story on mines but I suppose that will have to wait until the war is won, to be told.

Can you picture me escorting those Nazi supermen? I've had some odd experiences in doing just that. The Germans are quite docile when they are stripped of their armament. They still maintain their military discipline however, and their obedience to commands is really something to observe. When they snap to attention they literally freeze. These visible evidences of their severe training and discipline bears out the many articles I've read. Articles which stress that the German is fanatically imbued with Nazi doctrines and military creeds.

However, it is difficult for most of us to condemn the German just because he is our enemy, because we know that without the evil leadership, these men would probably be

simple peace loving citizens living a normal happy life in their own country. Nevertheless it is quite evident that their beliefs are firmly rooted in their minds and it is going to be quite a problem even after the war expires.

I assure you the line Company boys don't take my liberal attitude, but are looking down the barrel of that rifle which bent up vengeance.

I'd do the same. You would really be interested in my surroundings. I'm sitting on a second floor balcony with the warm Italian sun creating a false feeling of peace and tranquility. The Italians really go in for spacious buildings, with big flare for unnecessary adornments. My desk is a box of grenades, all over the floor is scattered debris from the surrounding walls. It certainly will be a sad day when the owner returns and finds his house in such ruin. Many of the men have fled into the hills carrying a few meager possessions but they will return gradually as their homes are liberated from the Nazis. They are very bitter against the Germans, and small wonder. They even have looted what little the Italians were able to take with them. All of the stories about the unscrupulous Germans must have been true, even more so what some of the Germans have to say is very interesting.

Before I decide to start a novel on this subject, I'd better sign off, assuring you I am o.k. and will write as often as opportunity presents itself.

Corporal Royce E. Smith
35345369 85th Infantry,
Division Band

P.S. A correspondent just gave four of us an interview. He took notes on our reaction to our first enemy air bombing. I consider myself lucky I didn't get hit. Those Stukas were plenty terrifying. He also took the address of the Paulding Republican Newspaper, which I just received.

Royce Smith was my neighbor from my childhood until he passed away. I loved his sense of humor, craftsmanship in making human models for the Paulding Historical Museum. Leaving model heads in his windows of his shop was often scary. But as he would say, "No one ever broke in"

I knew his father Altie and his mother, Agness, great people. I had really neat neighbors as a kid growing up. I only wish that I would have wrote down what they said. All I have are great memories from old neighbors and watching new neighbors living in their homes. I guess to them, I am starting to be that old neighbor.

...Until Next Time !

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THE GOOD NEWS NEWSPAPER

Dotting My Teas By: Marlene Oxender

More than a few times, I've heard others say it'd be great to read a newspaper full of nothing but good news. Comments such as that tend to lead to a discussion about what is good news and if there's enough of it to fill a newspaper.

Would coverage of ball games be allowed in the Good News Newspaper? After all, those who won the game see the outcome as good news. Others walk away dealing with disappointment at the numbers on the scoreboard. But no matter if our team won or lost, there is good news in the fact that they were having fun. There was sportsmanship. There was a reason to be together and play ball.

How about the changing of a car tire by a guy who stops to help out? It's not good news that the tire needs repair, but it is good news that someone stopped to help.

Perhaps community events such as the Ladies Day Tea would make headlines. The names of those in attendance would be listed. The recipes for the food that was served would be included in the "Good News Recipe Column."

Photos of friends sledding down a hill, the making of snowmen, and images of snowballs flying through the air would be newsworthy.

Ice skating? A photo of anyone who can keep their balance on the ice, let alone with shoes that have narrow blades under them, ought to have their picture published in the paper. We need to know who these people are.

Small town newspaper editors tend to find good news to share, but when tragedies or hard times occur, it only makes sense to let others know what happened. It's a way for the community to come together and be there for each other in practical ways.

The old newspapers I am finding in my parents' estate are interesting. Even the grocery store ads are fun to read. Back in 1969, frozen pot pies were six for \$1.00. Five loaves

of Jumbo Bunny Bread were on sale five for \$1.05 at Dick's IGA in Edgerton.

Anyone who grew up with a hometown bakery will claim that their bakery was the best, and there's no reason to doubt them. They're telling the truth. And those who say money can't buy happiness obviously have never been to a bakery.

There are those from Edgerton who remember stopping at the bakery in the early hours of the morning before heading to work. The back door of the bakery was left unlocked while Mr. Robinette was out making deliveries. Customers were welcome to help themselves and leave their money to pay for the best donuts ever.

The front window of the store was where downtown shoppers would find picture-perfect trays of pastries, pies, and loaves of bread. When you opened the front door, a bell rang to signal that a customer had entered the store.

Their cookie selection could be found in a glass display case below the counter-top. Decorated cutout sugar cookies were available during the holidays. I wish I would've used my Kodak 110 camera and snapped a picture of those cookies. But that was fifty years ago, and I would not have known the things I should have taken a photo of. I remember when the cookies were three cents each. Donuts would cost you a dime.

The recipe I use for roll out cookies is fondly known as "Kindergarten Sugar Cookies," a recipe that had been submitted by Mrs. Sailor and published in the 1978 Edgerton PTO cookbook. When I pass the recipe along to others, I include a few tips I've learned over the years.

February is the month when we are especially good at letting others know how much we care for them. Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday this year, and it's a day we can place an order with the local cookie shop. Or bake a batch of our own and make sure our friends receive a sugar cookie. With sprinkles.

Kindergarten Sugar Cookies:

- 2 sticks butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 Tbsp real vanilla
- 1 tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp baking powder
- 2 tsp cream of tartar
- 4 cups flour

Allow butter and eggs to come to room temperature. Cream butter, sugar, and eggs. Add vanilla, baking soda, bak-

ing powder, and cream of tartar. Mix. Add flour and mix well. Chill several hours or overnight. Roll out and cut out. Bake at 375 for 8 to 10 minutes depending on size of cookie.

Tips: Roll the dough out about ¼ inch thick. Bake on a flat baking sheet with no sides on it. Each cookie sheet should have the same shape so they finish baking at the same time. Leave at least one inch between each cookie. I bake only one tray at a time. Don't over bake. Cookies should be slightly tan on the bottom and yellow on top. These cookies freeze well (frosted or unfrosted). One batch makes approximately 40 cookies.

Frosting:

- 1 stick softened butter
- 2 and ½ cups powdered sugar
- 2 Tbsp milk
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Pinch of salt

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

PJHS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Teagan Bland (Grade 7), Sophia Speelman (Grade 8), and Nolan Rosalez (Grade 6).

PJHS POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Cooper Laney (Grade 6), Maddalayna Mullins (Grade 8), and Jack Roddy (Grade 7).

PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL SECOND NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

SENIORS:

4.0 - Grady Barton, Kaitlynn Breedlove, Lucy Breier, Landen Danberry, Lilian Daniels, Mallory Fisher, Maxwell Fohner, Jackson Griffith, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Colten Hunt, Molly Iler, Jackson Laker, Isabelle Lamb, Samantha Leal, Jared Manz, Miguel Martinez, Aleah Matty, Renee McCabe, Tessa Metcalf, Addison Pease, Edwin Perez Escobar, Thad Schneider, Xander Schwab, Jack Schweller, Sheyenne Shepherd, Addison Shull, Laila Stiltner

3.5-3.99 - Katherine Burtch, Grace Cantu, Makayla Carr, Xsenia Casiano, Delaney Dachenhaus, Gerald Hartzell, Alexander Highwarden, Leticia Mendez, Blayne Pease, Hope Peters

3.0-3.49 - Adrieana Biliti, Treven Doster, Xavier Farmer, Alexander Kuckuck, Damien Peffley, Blake Rhonehouse

JUNIORS:

4.0 - Anija Acevedo, Destiny Aldred, Remington Bo-

roff, Max Daeger, Kayleigh Dunham, Jayla Griffith, Reina Kleman, Mariah Klopfenstein, Camdyn Manz, Kate Manz, Myrriah Manz, Vivienne Myers, Estie Pease, Lucy Porter, Leonel Reyes, Tori Schlatter, Cadence Schwab, Audrey Stoller, Darcy Taylor

3.5-3.99 - London Ametewee, Emmet Barnes, Jolene Branham, Isabella Burtch, Avery Cooper, Landon Dasher, Mackenzie Leatherman, Esther Lemieux, Olivia McCrory, Landyn Moore, Gannon Parrett, Eli Pessefall, Kolton Shomsky, Lailah Smith

3.0-3.49 - Grady Arend, Olivia Breier, Milee George, Avryl Godinez Maya, Aaliyah Lee, Jordan Manz, Jasmine Smith, Lily Speelman

SOPHOMORES:

4.0 - Nicholas Baughman, Lela Brownell, Kinzley Collard, Chloe Coombs, Jack Daeger, Carly Font, Tyler Foor, Tyler Goyings, Taylor Hogans, Quinton Laker, Maleah Leslie, Graham Miller, Gabriella Mullins, Gabriella Stork, Alayna White

3.5-3.99 - Annabelle Ametewee, Addison Arend, Giselle Arend, Zachary Barton, Co-

JOY

Still thinking about the January 1940 edition of the Leo High-Lights newspaper. These kids put a lot of work into it. Advertisement from the entire area, also Fort Wayne. They distributed it to all schools in the area. They made a real difference to the people of our community

There are many things that students can contribute to their home towns and their area. Western Ohio has beautiful small towns, and soil from the Black Swamp, some of the most fertile ground in the world. I enjoy writing in the West Bend News, and getting to know the Steiners. As you know I started writing after I retired, which was a fur piece ago.

I enjoy writing and I sincerely hope you get a bit of enjoyment reading. I've been wondering if Jesus ever laughed. Jesus was a high priest, and the priests were known for being sober people. What was it like to be around Jesus. Yeah I found at least six references of Jesus being joyful. We know he attended weddings and parties.

I still remember the first Bible verse I learned. It was John 10:10 "Jesus wept." He had emotions just like you and I. In Hebrews 12, Jesus sacrificed himself, for the joy set before him." In Matthew 18 He rejoices. In Acts 2 and



Psalms 45 he had gladness. John 15:11, that my joy may be in you."

Joy is an important part of the Christian life. My King James Bible talks about joy over 200 times. But perhaps this is different than partying all night. This is real satisfaction, the peace that passes understanding. This is truth and love and a good life. This is the true Joy I get out of writing and getting to know the publishers of West Bend.

We are living in a chaotic time. Perhaps every time in history has been a chaotic time. Perhaps we are either adding to the chaos or helping to solve the problem. Being of the older set, I see many places where young people could help. Look around and see if there's something that you, or your group could do. You won't have to look for to find a problem that you might be able to help.

—James Neuhouser

ehen Benard, Zaine Bidlack, Sophia Booher, Phenoix Clements, Rylee Cox, Billie Dix, Trevor Durham, Parker Egnor, Addyson Gribble, Jarret Griffith, Easton Griffiths, Alivia Kingen, Kaydence Kuckuck, Cameron Lambert, Ava Leatherman, Jason Manz, Tyson Manz, Adrianna Mead, Holly Peffley, Civil Pumphrey, Levi Ray, Delaney Scott, Miley Vanhorn Laney, Tristen Vorlicky, Cameron Williams, Owen Workman

3.0-3.49 - Ella Barker, Presley Barnes, Richard Brownell, Chase Dobbelaere, Andrew Goyings, Emily Hartzell, Ridge Hunt, Delaney Johanns, Lyndi Lamond, Magdiel Lopez Santiago, Anabel Martinez, Danica Schooley, Dallas Schuchart, Javvon Stiltner, Alexander Thompson, Nicole Vielma, Dylan Weible, Abigail Wharry, Taryn Wolford

FRESHMEN:

4.0 - Cora Agler, Yoselin Cortes Becerra, Ingrid Escobar, Aspen Grace, Rooney Gutierrez Cortes, Addalynne Halter, Charity Kochel, Lily Leatherman, Brynlee

Mangette, Allison Manz, Chase Manz, Makenna Manz, Jordyn Nagy, Evelyn Reyes, Nolan Schlatter, Jezaiha Seba Fuentas, Shohawna Shepherd, Lilly Steingass, Owen Stoller, Sage Stork, Audrey Trejo Marin

3.5-3.99: Makenna Adams, Jonah Anders, Paisley Bartley, Daniella Borland, Karli Breedlove, Madison Clark, Sean Elder, Jakob Elkins, Wesley Grindstaff, Baylor Kilgore, Gracie Leal, Kevin Lin, Brynlee Manz, Lincoln Manz, Luciana Martinez, Mason Parker, Kristen Rader, Elliette Roughton, Kinlee Sherry, Kendyl Sunday, Harley Troyer

3.0-3.49: Parker Bates, Paityn Dobbelaere, Kane Garber, Savannah Harris, Kendal Hodge, Lexine Johnston, Brayden Kausar, Karlee Kohart, Landon Manz, Ivan Martinez, Merissa Schroeder

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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

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

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

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Passport
Is your passport up to date? Mine is and I pray yours is also. Many of you are probably thinking "I'm not going any place, so I don't need one." WRONG!
I think I can see your liberal mind working. You are probably thinking of that little packet you receive when you request a desire to visit another country. Relax...I real-

ize how you must be thinking. There is another kind, but being a non-Christian liberal you are not familiar with it.
I doubt if most Christians think of what I'm going to say as a passport. We all do think differently don't we? Many of you will see my point of view but if you are not a Christian, you might not have a clue. Better hurry - your only chance of finding it is to discover faith in God. Hurry - your time gets shorter every day.
If you doubt what I say, just read the greatest history book ever written. Many call it the Holy Bible. Now before I try to explain more I want you to read the following.
What happens to citizens in a country run by dictatorship? You have no freedoms at all. You will live like those is China or Russia. I believe that is what Democrats want. They do not want any Christian Republicans having any say. They can't offer any better. Is this what you want for future generations, your grandkids?
Many of our blind accept someone saying they are a socialist but reject one saying he is a communist. Why? I believe it was created different by the revised way of what and now is taught by Democrat socialists. Those two titles refer to the same thing but liberals don't want you knowing that. Democrats are blind.
We were born a Christian nation and remained so until after WWII ended in 1945. In 1947 it was our very liberal supreme court gave us separation of church and state. This was then approved by our Democrat controlled government. We have been on a 'hardcore' downward roll ever

since.
Just take the new mayor of New York City. He proudly claimed being a socialist. If he had said he was a communist that many times, I don't believe he would have been elected. People are stupid.
I believe the kind of stupidity taking over America today is exactly what our Democrat controlled teachers union was established for. Democrats know they can't guide and control intelligent citizens so they have concentrated on making our population dumber. Open your eyes.
It isn't China or Russia that scares me the most, it is our Democrat party. You gave us a president guided by a jezebel and one guided by Islamic hate Christians and a sick one not qualified for the job.
You Democrats have shown your ignorance too many times. It proves to me either you are too dumb about a person's background or just don't care. For you blind ones out there, socialism and communism are the same thing.
We have probably our nation's most important midterm elections coming this year. America and our whole world are better off with Trump and our Republican party in control. If you vote for a Democrat this next November, you are saying that you prefer death to free America over being free. Think hard on that.
Now let me tell you about that other passport. It is so simple that I don't see why you didn't discover it sooner. I do realize it might be more difficult if you are a Democrat because it is a fact that Democrats are less likely to believe in God than a Republican. Liberals tend to believe only what they can see.
Why do you say, "The Devil made me do it" rather than "God made me do it"? It could be that inside you is a feeling that is closer to Satan than it is God. Dwell on that a bit because you may not even be aware of it.
That passport is also called: "Faith In God".
—Richard Mastin
Hicksville, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

When I say "I'm a Christian"
By: Carol Wimmer
When I say I'm a Christian I'm not shouting "I'm saved," I am whispering "I was lost." That is why I chose this way.
When I say "I am a Christian" I don't speak of this with pride. I'm confessing that I stumble and need someone to

be my guide.
When I say "I'm a Christian" I'm not trying to be strong. I'm professing that I'm weak and pray for strength to carry on.
When I say "I'm a Christian" I'm not bragging of success, I'm admitting I have failed and cannot ever pay the debt.
When I say "I'm a Christian" I still feel the sting of pain. I have my share of heartaches, which is why I speak his name.
When I say "I'm a Christian" I do not wish to judge, I have no authority. I only know I'm loved.
Submitted by: Dave Laukhuf, Paulding, OH

LATTA VOTES TO SECURE AMERICA'S DEFENSE, INVEST IN U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT & PROMOTE PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

Congressman Bob Latta (OH-05) released the following statement after voting in favor of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026:
"I am proud to support this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which ensures our men and women in uniform have the tools, training, and support they need to meet their mission in keeping America safe and advances President Trump's Peace Through Strength agenda. The NDAA also improves service members' quality of life by including an across-the-board 3.8 percent pay raise, strengthens military readiness, and reinforces the principle of peace through strength."
"The NDAA also invests in Made-in-America military equipment, strengthens our defense industrial base, and prioritizes American workers over foreign adversaries. Supporting our troops and protecting the American people is Congress's highest responsibility, and this legislation ensures our servicemembers are prepared to defend and protect our national security."

PUTTING YOUR AGING PARENTS' WISHES FIRST
As your parents grow older, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, which may involve difficult conversations.
You'll want to be careful how you approach this. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.
If your parents are agreeable, choose a comfortable location and ask whom to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money, as this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broader discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably rather than trying to solve everything at once.
Try to address these areas:

- Health care – Seek to learn whether your parents have established appropriate health-related legal documents such as a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make decisions about their medical care if they become unable, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.
- Independence – As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered options for long-term care, such as an assisted living community, a nursing home or a home health aide? If they plan to receive support from family members, do your parents' expectations match yours?
- Financial goals – Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have they updated their will or

other estate documents, such as a living trust? Have they created a durable power of attorney for a trusted family member to make financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies, retirement plans and bank accounts? If you position these issues around your parents having control over transferring their assets, rather than curiosity over "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.
• Last wishes – You'll want to learn whether your parents have instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express that you or another close family member should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met in a timely fashion.
Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. You don't have to go it alone, though — enlist help from another close family member. Or, if your parents work with an attorney, financial professional or other trusted advisor, consider asking if they're interested in having them participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce your parents to one of your advisors.
In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but if handled correctly can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.
This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC
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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, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,
Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart
Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House
Continental: ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy
Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch
Edgerton: USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General
Hicksville: Sailers, Vancrest, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza, McDonalds
Ney: Marathon
Oakwood: Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Cooper Library, Landing Strip
Paulding: Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Gorrell Bros, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff's Office, PCH, PC

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587
Payne: Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, 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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RAIDERS PULLS AWAY LATE TO TOP PILOTS



Seniors Raider Caitlyn Mead and Ayersville's Allison Elsdridge fight for the rebound only for a jump ball to be called in this first quarter struggle between the two teams.

A strong second half lifted Wayne Trace Raiders to a 53-45 girls basketball win over Ayersville Pilots on January 8 at Wayne Trace. The Raiders outscored the Pilots 18-12 in the third quarter to seize control after a tightly contested first half.

Ayersville held a 15-6 edge after the opening quarter and

carried a 19-12 advantage into the break, but Wayne Trace responded with balanced scoring and defensive pressure after halftime. The Raiders followed their third-quarter surge by matching Ayersville 14-18 in the final period to seal the eight-point victory.

Caroline Winans led

Wayne Trace with 15 points, while Lexi Moore added 13 and Kinlee Miller chipped in nine. Amber Stoller contributed six points as the Raiders spread the scoring across the lineup. Wayne Trace finished with 32 made two-point field goals and converted 12 free throws.

Ayersville was paced by Avery Knueven's game-high 16 points, with Hannah Altszeter scoring 12. Kaylah Hastedt added six points, while Kendyll Booher and Makaylah Giesige each finished with four. The Pilots kept the game close with strong rebounding and inside play, but Wayne Trace's third-quarter run proved decisive.

In the junior varsity contest, Ayersville defeated Wayne Trace 24-15.

WOODLAN PULLS AWAY IN SECOND HALF TO TOP CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

Woodlan used a balanced scoring attack and a strong second half to pull away from Concordia Lutheran for a 57-40 girls basketball win on January 3 at Concordia Lutheran. The Warriors trailed 11-7 after the opening quarter but settled in offensively in the second period, outscoring the hosts 14-11 to take a narrow lead into halftime. Woodlan then took control after the break, holding Concordia Lutheran to just nine points in each of the final two quarters while pouring in 20 points in the third to build separation. Woodlan was led by a trio of double-figure scorers, with Anderson, Scheumann, and Peoples each finishing with 14 points, while Hodson and Sterling added six apiece. Concordia Lutheran was

paced by Bollinger's game-high 18 points, with Spreen adding seven and Glory Hedtke contributing six, but the Cadets could not keep pace with Woodlan's depth and defensive pressure down the stretch.

KNIGHTS PULLS AWAY LATE FOR WIN AT ANTWERP

A strong start and balanced scoring effort carried Crestview Knights to a 66-44 boys basketball victory over Antwerp Archers on January 3 at Antwerp.

Crestview jumped out quickly with a 19-9 first-quarter advantage and maintained control through the opening half, taking a 35-23 lead into the locker room. The Knights continued to build separation after halftime, outscoring Antwerp 15-12 in the third quarter before closing the game with a 16-9 fourth period to secure the win. Crestview improved to 6-5 on the season, while Antwerp fell to 2-8.

Owen Heckler led all scorers with 16 points for Crestview, while Hayden Perrott added 14. Liam Putman contributed 12 points and Will Sheets chipped in 10 as the Knights placed six players in the scoring column. Kale Lichtensteiger scored seven points, Cash Hammons added five, and Denver McDougall rounded out the scoring with two points.

Antwerp was paced by Zaine McMichael with 12 points, including a strong showing at the free-throw line. Brayden Fuller followed with eight points, while Hampton Rogge added seven. Weston Rhonehouse and Noah Lucas each scored six points, and Lincoln Lucas finished with five as the Archers worked to keep pace.

In junior varsity action, Crestview defeated Antwerp 48-24.

WAYNE TRACE DEFENSE STIFLES DELTA IN VICTORY

Strong team defense and steady scoring lifted Wayne Trace Raiders to a 35-26 win over Delta Panthers on January 6 at Wayne Trace.

The Raiders set the tone early, holding Delta to just two points in the opening quarter while building a 12-2 lead. Wayne Trace carried a 20-16 advantage into halftime and continued to control the tempo in the second half, outscoring the Panthers 15-10 over the final two quarters to secure the nine-point win. The victory improved Wayne Trace to 8-3 on the season.

Lexi Moore led all scorers with 15 points for Wayne Trace, providing a consistent offensive presence throughout the game. Amber Stoller added nine points, while Carreen Winans finished with seven points and contributed across the stat sheet. Caroline Winans chipped in two points as the Raiders relied on balanced contributions and rebounding to maintain their lead.

Delta was paced by Anna Lohman with 11 points. Abbey Todd scored six points, while Olivia Mohning added five. Despite getting to the free-throw line, the Panthers struggled to generate offense against Wayne Trace's defensive pressure.

In junior varsity action, Wayne Trace completed the sweep with a 32-17 victory over Delta.

PAULDING STAYS UNBEATEN IN GMC WITH WIN AT ANTWERP



Paulding Sophomore Anya Mead is able to deliver a couple points with this layup, while Antwerp's Aliyah Friend tries to get ahead to block. More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Antwerp's Aliyah Friend, junior, shoots and scores with Paulding Junior Kayleigh Dunham attempting to block. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

A balanced offensive effort and steady defensive pressure carried Paulding Panthers to a 46-26 girls basketball victory over Antwerp Archers on January 8 at Antwerp. The win improved Paulding to 10-1 overall and 3-0 in the Green Meadows Conference, while Antwerp fell to 5-8 overall and 1-2 in league play.

Paulding set the tone early, jumping out to a 12-5 first-quarter lead and extending the margin to 18-11 by halftime. The Panthers continued to build separation in the third quarter, outscoring the Archers 12-

10, before closing the game with a strong 16-point fourth quarter.

Estie Pease led all scorers with 13 points for Paulding, including three three-pointers, while Tori Schlatter added 10 points. Kate Manz finished with eight points, Anya Mead contributed seven, and Addison Pease and Kayleigh Dunham scored four points apiece as the Panthers spread the scoring across the lineup.

Antwerp was led by Clara Rohrs, who scored 10 points to pace the Archers. Aliyah Friend added eight points, while Raeley Franklin and

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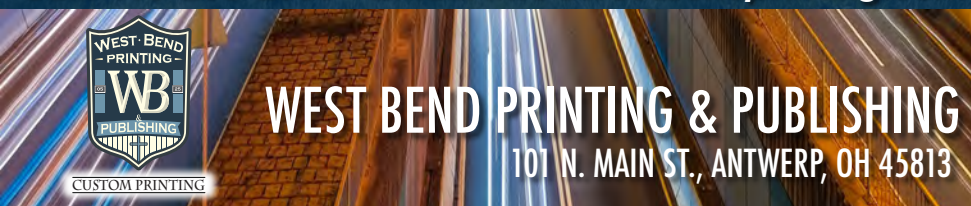
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ANTWERP HONORS SENIORS, EARNS TWO WINS ON SENIOR NIGHT MAT



Antwerp's seniors are celebrated at Tuesday's event. From Left to Right are Griffin Kosch, Cami McAlexander, Landon Orozco, and Haydyn Lengacher. More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Senior Griffin Kosch has the takedown and works on flipping his Apache opponent to his back, resulting in a pin! More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Junior High Wrestler Addie Slattman has a great night while pinning her Fairview opponent. More pictures at Engaging-Exposures.com

Senior Night at Antwerp turned into a memorable evening on the mat as the Archers honored seniors Cami McAlexander, Griffin Kosch, Landon Orozco, and Haydyn Lengacher during a competitive home wrestling meet on January 6. Surrounded by family, teammates, and supporters, the night celebrated both the seniors' contributions and a strong overall performance by Antwerp Archers. The Archers picked up two team victories, defeating Fairview 42-18 and edging Edgerton 27-22, while falling to Parkview by a 46-23 score.

Antwerp's junior high wrestlers set the tone early, with Adelynn Slattman and Cooper Nestleroad each going 2-0 with two pins. At the high school level, several Archers

delivered standout performances. Gage Clevinger posted a perfect 3-0 record with a pin, Zac Salas also went 3-0, and Keegan Gray-Wyckoff finished 3-1 with a pin. Griffin Kosch, one of the honored seniors, went 2-1 with two pins, while fellow senior Landon Orozco added a 2-1 night of his own. Haylee Lingenfelter went 2-0, Braxton Peters and Maddilan Doster each earned wins, and Senior Cami McAlexander recorded a pin in her matches.

LADY RAIDERS MAKE NOISE AT BATTLE AT THE FORT WITH MULTIPLE PODIUM FINISHES

The Wayne Trace girls wrestling program continue to showcase its growing depth and competitive edge

stay competitive against the conference-leading Panthers.

with a strong outing at the 2025 TSBW Battle at the Fort on December 27. With only five athletes competing, three at the high school level and two in junior high, the Raiders managed to secure a champion and four runner-up finishes across the brackets.

High School Wrestlers Deliver Big Results

Karsyn Troth's fast-paced run at 130 pounds highlighted the day for Wayne Trace. Troth opened the tournament with an 18-second pin over Clark of Elida, then added a 1:23 fall against Findlay's Strickland. She punched her ticket to the finals after pinning Korolden of Yale in 2:54. Troth ultimately finished second after a tech-fall loss to Yale's Stevens in a competitive 13-wrestler bracket.

Katelynn Bauer matched that silver-medal performance at 135 pounds. Bauer strung together three straight pins—Gray of Findlay in the opener, Kunkle-Stough of Liberty Benton in 1:01, and Williams of Findlay in 3:35—to reach the championship match. She finished as runner-up after falling to Fairview's Love in the finals of a deep 14-athlete field.

MaKenna Schilt battled through a challenging 145-pound bracket to place sixth. Schilt started strong with a 3:01 pin over Paulding's Omonayin before dropping her quarterfinal bout. She responded with back-to-back consolation wins—pinning Loniello of

Nile in 2:54 and Burtch of Paulding in just 34 seconds—before finishing sixth after losses to Clay's Stevens and Defiance's King-Mayeku.

Junior High Raiders Add Two More Podium Finishes

Jocelyn Adkins turned in a standout performance at 122 pounds, opening her day with a 48-second pin over Kelley of Lake Middle School. She followed with a 52-second semifinal fall against Cassoni of Clay. Adkins earned second place after being pinned by Brenne-man of Archbold in the title match.

Zoey Schnipke also reached the finals in the junior high division, dominating early with a 24-second pin over LaLumia of Hicksville and a one-minute fall against Caksackar of Paulding. Schnipke secured a championship finish for Wayne Trace after a pin over Ames of Archbold in 1:05.

Despite entering with a small roster in the tournament, Wayne Trace left Defiance with five podium finishes and a clear message: the Raiders' girls wrestling program is quickly becoming one to watch!

PANTHERS HOLDS OFF BULLDOGS

Strong defensive play and timely scoring helped Paulding Panthers earn a 36-30 girls basketball victory over Defiance Bulldogs on January 3 at Defiance.

Paulding set the tone early, taking an 11-4 lead after the opening quarter and holding a slim 17-13 advantage at halftime. The Panthers extended their lead in the third period, outscoring Defiance 13-10 to build separation before both teams were held in check offensively in the fourth quarter, where Paulding closed out the six-point win.

Tori Schlatter led all scorers with 12 points for Paulding, while Kate Manz and Myrriah Manz each added seven. Estie Pease finished with six points, and Addison Pease chipped in four as the Panthers leaned on balanced scoring to secure the road win.

Defiance was led by Aliana Stantz with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Laela Keller added six points, Jamie Rollins scored five, and Isabella Rowlison contributed four. Despite holding Paulding to just six points in the final quarter, Defiance was unable to overcome the Panthers' third-quarter surge.

COLTON KIMMEL FINISHES AS 120-POUND RUNNER-UP AT TROY INVITATIONAL



Colton Kimmel, 120-pound runner-up and only placer. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Wayne Trace Raiders traveled to Troy High School on January 3rd to compete against fifteen other schools at the annual Troy Invitational, showing strong improvement across the roster throughout the day.

Junior Colton Kimmel led the Raiders with an impressive performance, finishing as the 120-pound runner-up. Kimmel opened the tournament with two quick pins over Kaz Smith (Centerville) and Malachi Brown (Milton-Union), spending just 1:45 on the mat combined. He continued his momentum with a dominant 27-second pin against Spenser Nicely (Sidney) before advancing to the semifinals, where he pinned Henry Allread (Greenville) in 4:45. Kimmel's run ended in the finals, where he fell to Spencer Short (Miami East) by tech fall, 16-1.

In the 150-pound weight class, freshman Nathan Benschneider earned his first wins of the season, finishing the day with a 2-2 record.

After dropping his opening match to T.J. Murray (Troy), Benschneider bounced back with a dominant 20-second pin over Logan Roeser (Arcanum) and a 2:31 pin against Tyler Palsgrove (Covington). His tournament concluded with a quarterfinal loss to Phillip Curtis (Tecumseh) in 2:48.

At 165 pounds, sophomore Dylan Hershberger also posted a 2-2 record. Hershberger opened with a 2:48 pin over Shawn Marker (Troy) before falling to Camden Gable (St. Johns) in round two. He responded with a commanding 16-1 tech fall over Michael Sbrocchi, but was eliminated in the quarterfinals by A.J. Hurd (Troy).

Other Raider competitors included Ben Gurney (1-2), Seth Rosswurm (1-2), Camden Kimmel, and Waylon McCord.

The Raiders return to action on January 17 at the Brookville Invitational. Good luck, Raiders!

CORRECTION NOTICE



CORRECTION:

In this week's *West Bend News*, an incorrect caption was published with a photo.

Above is the correct caption with the photo.

We apologize for this oversight.

—WBN editors

PICTURE: Antwerp Senior Zane McMichael not afraid of scoring in Tuesday night's match as he achieved his one thousand point threshold, and was named player of the tournament!

More pictures at engagingexposures.com

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Briley Bagley each knocked down a three-pointer. Eliana Hormann chipped in two points as Antwerp worked to

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THE LEFT TURN



Cap Henry wins the 100 lap Midget featue. KR Poole Photo.

By: Ron Burt

The Rumble in Fort Wayne part 2, the final night Saturday December 20th. The night saw the return of the 100-lap Midget feature to the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum; Ohio's Cap Henry authored a dominant performance of epic proportions. After earning the pole position for the grand finale of the 27th Rumble in Fort Wayne, Henry took off like a shot and never trailed during the Burco Molding Race to 100 for the headlining National Midget Division. Henry led every lap to a \$4,000 victory, earning his second career Rumble in Fort Wayne triumph in the top class as part of a one-two sweep by Joe Liguori Racing. Though the race was split into three segments – providing air quality breaks near the one-third and two-third benchmarks, there was never a point where it felt like Henry wasn't in control.

He fended off Russ Gamester through the first 75 laps, then pulled away late after young Kasey Jedrzejek shuffled Gamester out of the mix, creating a final battle for the runner-up honors between Jedrzejek and Henry's car owner Joe Liguori.

A spin by fifth-running Derek Blischak right after the white flag set up a green-white-checked finish, pushing the race one lap beyond its scheduled distance, but Henry easily pulled away from Liguori to a .618-second margin of victory.

The only true nervous moment for Henry all night came with 10 laps left, when he was passing the slower car of Chris Neuenschwander and got into Neuenschwander's No. 3 with his right front tire. It could have been disastrous, but Henry barely missed a beat and continued to lead with no damage to his red No. 41.

The feature had total of seven yellow cautions which slowed Saturday night's

midget finale, including the two scheduled air-quality breaks. The lap-35 stoppage occurred on schedule, while the lap-70 break was pushed up by eight circuits after a stuck throttle for Sam Hinds led to a huge impact with the turn-one hay bales. The incident looked and sounded vicious, but Hinds climbed out uninjured, with his night over. Liguori got to third in the final quarter of the race, chasing Jedrzejek up through traffic, before making the pass for second coming to 12 laps left and settling in well behind his teammate. Jedrzejek crossed third in his best Rumble midget showing in three attempts, with Gamester in fourth and Jakeb Boxell finishing fifth to earn Rookie of the Race honors. Saturday's headliner was the first 100-lap midget race in Fort Wayne in more than 20 years.

The 600cc micro sprint wing and non-wing features Saturday night were both won by Supermodified racer Tyler Shullick. These 2 wins pushed his weekend record to three-for-four and his career Rumble win total to six between the two micro sprint classes.

It was recently announced by Kryptonite Race car's; their driver Fast Freddie Carpenter will run full-time with the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series in 2026. It's been his dream for over thirty years to run with the big dogs. He's now 55 and it's time to give it a shot. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

SHULTZ HUBER & ASSOCIATES, INC. ANNOUNCES PROMOTIONS

Shultz Huber & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce that Alex Schomaeker, Alyssa Renfer, Samson Chiwaramakanda and Hunter Yackee were recently promoted. Schomaeker was promoted to manager and Renfer has been promoted to supervisor. Chi-

waramakanda and Yackee were promoted to in-charge accountants.



Alex Schomaeker

Schomaeker, a certified public accountant, has been with the firm since 2014. He works in the Defiance office and holds a master's degree from Bowling Green State University and a bachelor's degree from Defiance College.



Alyssa Renfer

Renfer has been with the firm since 2021 and works in the Defiance office. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Spring Arbor University and serves as the treasurer for Grace Cares, a local non-profit organization. Renfer recently earned licensure as a certified public accountant in Ohio.



Samson Chiwaramakanda

Chiwaramakanda joined the firm in 2023 and works in the St. Marys office. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Northwestern Ohio.



Hunter Yackee

Yackee has been with SH&A since 2024. He works in the Defiance office and holds a bachelor's in business administration from Lourdes University.

Managers direct client assignments while coaching and advising other team members. They oversee supervisors, in-

charge accountants, staff accountants and accounting assistants. Supervisors work directly with clients while taking a leadership role in coordinating and managing projects. They also oversee in-charge accountants, staff accountants and accounting assistants. In-charge accountants work directly with clients and oversee staff accountants and accounting assistants.

Shultz Huber & Associates, Inc. is a full-service accounting, tax and business consulting CPA firm specializing in assisting businesses and their owners plan for their future and achieve their goals in an ever-changing financial and regulatory environment. Offices are located in Archbold, Bryan, Defiance, St. Marys and Van Wert, Ohio.

PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH SECOND NINE WEEK HONOR ROLL 2025-26

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's – Caroline Miller; Mackenzie Reilly; Angelica Reno (Angel); Nolan Rosalez; Ella Pangler; Isabella Wesley (Bella); Rya Wirtes

All A/B's – Kirsten Arend; Olivia Buchholz; Carter Crossland; Nolan Doctor; Charles Frye (Chuck); Demiriana Goings (Ana); Isabella Gonzales (Bella); Leigha Hahn; Sienna Harris; Graeson Heller; Erick Hernandez Palacios; Alexis Kennedy; Cooper Laney; Kamden Laney (Kam); Cadence Lee; Easton Mapes; Maggie Martinez; Rebeka Mericle (Beka); Elizabeth Miller (Lizzy); Sage Paputsakis-Mead; Christopher Pender; Zarla Ross; Delilah Rymer (DJ); Jeremiah Sajuan; Kaitlynn Seymour; Sophia Smith; Zoey-Nichole Watson (Zoey); Phoenix Whiting

SEVENTH GRADE:

All A's – Kyra Aldred, Teagan Bland, Cooper Boroff; Carlos Lechuga; Alexandria Manz (Allie); Connor Manz; Zoey Manz; Adalyn Miller; Kinsley Pease; Kinley Sunday

All A/B's – Sawyer Antoine; Logan Apkarian; Alanna Bassler; Blaze Bassler; Liam Batt; Hunter Bullinger; Mia Cameron; Eva Densmore; Carolyn Dulaney; Mallory Elder; Harmony Finch; Andrew Fry (Drew); Joseph Griffith (Joey); Edalyne Hardt (Edda); Michael Hastings; Raelyn Haynes; Julia Hull; Ryan Lin; Jaxson Lindsey; Kyler Manz; Carter Naugle; Clara Nicholson; Kaylee Pack; Melissa Ramirez Cortes; William Repka (Liam); Perla Reyes; Kolten Ringler; Jack Roddy; Devin Scott; Cierra Smith; Brantlee Swanson; Trenit Valle

EIGHTH GRADE:

All A's – Finnegan Bradford (Finn); Legend Buckler; Madison Durham; Symon Manz; Weston Manz; Kenneth Peffley (Kenny); Lylah Schlueter; Sophia Speelman; Ella Zimmerman

All A/B's – Katherine Arend; Braelynn Aversch; Annaise Baughman (Anna); Kimber Boroff; Nahla Carlisle; Harrison Coil (Harry); Brady Dunham; Abisai Escobar; Easton Gee; Lillian Gunderman (Lilly); Brayden Keeling; Elayna Kleman; Victor Lechuga; Miranda Lewis; Avaiah Mezzuk; Balan Miller; Gavin Parrett; Gage Ramey; Hudson Spangler; Mason Weible

COOPER FARMS GRANT AWARDED TO THE PAULDING BAND



This past fall, the Cooper Family Foundation awarded a generous \$4,000 grant to the Paulding Band Program. Thanks to this support, the program was able to purchase a brand-new sousaphone for the marching band. Pictured below is Dianne Cooper carrying the new sousaphone, joined by two Paulding sousaphone players.

The grant also made it possible to purchase four student-model clarinets and four student-model flutes, helping ensure that every student has ac-

cess to an instrument and the opportunity to participate in band.

The Paulding Band Program extends its heartfelt thanks to the Cooper Family Foundation for their continued support. Just two years ago, the foundation's generosity allowed the program to purchase an entirely new drumline. The Paulding Band Program is truly grateful for the Cooper Family Foundation's ongoing commitment to music education and our students.

WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY SECOND NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

THIRD GRADE:

All A's – Ellie Burkley, Bennett Gerardot, Amelia Mawer, Gabriel Metcalfe, Landon Sherry, River Stoller, Chase Whright

All A/B's – Zaina Danner, Joseph Dargenson, Silas Dempsey, Owen Gamble, Aliyah Gerardot, Evan Kipfer, Kinlee Lamb, Jayce Linder, Arya Litzenberg, Calhi McBride, Londyn McMillan, Jasper McMillen, Holden Mullins, Andrew Stoller, Monroe Taylor, Elaine Temple

FOURTH GRADE

All A's – Andrew Cox, Nimai Danner, Celeste Hollar, Thea Keys, Xander Mansfield, Cameron Miller, Emersyn Showalter, Waylon Stoller, Ethan Valdez, Natalie Zartman

All A/B's – Altas Allenbaugh, Titus Allenbaugh, Leetim Crites, Ayden

Good, Braiden Hitchcock, Noah Lazoff, Evalynn Pierce, Ayla Praul, Gunner Reeves, Brantley Roddy, Remington Schilt, Brezlyn Strickler, Carter Whitehead

All B's – Deacon Boyd, Meryn Denning

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's – Aubree Philpot, Elise Steffen, Maylee Stoller, Allie Wilcox

All B's – Addi Danner, Mary Gerardot, Rilee Girardot, Norah Mawer, Megan McKinney, Nellie McMillan, Jack Meyers, Hank Mullins

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's – Raylynn Gerardot, Braelyn Gonzales, Pieper Mansfield, Hannah Mawer, Brynlee Stoller

All A/B's – Saylor Denning, Addie Litzenberg, River Rittenhouse, Lydia Shepherd, Callen Stoller, Wade Stoller, Annaleigh Walker, Gabe DeWaard, Brayden Williams

All B's – Boston McGarvey, Piper Mills, Bryleigh Wieland

HIGH SCHOOL Men & Women's Basketball SCORES & MORE

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READING BUDDIES AT OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY



Kindergarten kids love our Sixth Grade Reading Buddies! Both of Mr. Ellerbrock's 6th grade reading classes come to read to our Kindergarten students on Fridays. We are so thankful to continue this long standing tradition. Pictured here are Mrs. Miller's Super Kids and one group of 6th graders. Thank you for being leaders in our school!

ANTWERP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SECOND NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

THIRD GRADE:

All A's - Whitney Miller, Anya Moore, Sawyer Parisot, Maxx Reith, Leah Ruffing, Owen Wells, Lane Zuber, Stella Gaisford, Greta Kobee, Owen Larson, Adalind Muir, Landon Myers, Ethan Taylor, Duke Wiesehan, Evelyn Yenser, Liam Gill, Elise Graham, Hadley Jackson, Jett Johnson, Abel Kauser, Ezekiel Laker, Deana Miller

All A/B's - Emmagrace Baumert, Amelia Dunham, Coralyn Smith, August Gordon, Riley Henschen, Rowan Morrow, Starlette Ruffing, Lukas Custer, Lilah Martenies, Grace Shull

All A's - Kinley Gordon, Irenia Hand, Mo Reyes, Maryn Cottrell, Ava Fidler, Jaxton Schilt, Lyric Smith, Nash Zartman

All A/B's - Jarron Leiter, Everly Glenn, Malakai Backus, Matias Rivera, Peyton Heine, Cambria Bereszazi, Benson Slattman, Deacon Miller, Riley Budd, Joanna Zuber, Madison Muir, Azlyn

— Hilary Yoder, Fiscal Officer, Village of Scott

Foster, Zac Barker, Elaine Treesh, Eve Graham, Addalynn Chrisman, Sarah Willson, Kaydence Woolace

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's - Hadley Bissell, Madilyn Hogans, Grace Kobee, Braxton Messman, Bristol Kauser, Parker Schmidt, Reece Bidlack, Aria Feasby, Sutton Malfait, Carter Taylor, Blakely Geesey

All A/B's - Paizley Cover, Beckett Zuber, Addison Griffiths, Brevyn Eicher, Ashlynn Dunham, Keegan Moreno, Greysyn Hermiller, Roman Laker, Ensley Parisot, Roman Johnson, Hudson Martenies, Skyler Pierce, Leni Johnson, Soren Stevens, Owen Rhonehouse, Blade Ruffing, Addie Straley, Brayton Winslow, Ryland Ruffing, Wayne Zielke, Jocelyn Skinner

PRE-SCHOOL SCREENING REGISTRATION FOR WAYNE TRACE SCHOOL

Pre-School registration is now open for parents to sign up.

Pre-School Screening for Wayne Trace Local Schools Wayne Trace Little Raiders Deadline to Register is FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH Screening dates are March 25th at Payne Elementary School and March 26th for Grover Hill Elementary. Please call 419-587-3414 x312 or email TORDWAY@WBESC.ORG

WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY SECOND NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025/26

THIRD GRADE:

All A's - Aliyah Duer, Levi

Laukhuf, Tessa Stoller, Kanin May, Brookelyn Plummer

All A/B's - Grayson Bo-cook, Elizabeth Baksa, Tobias Beining, Owen Densmore, Addelynn Okang, Kolby Reichert, Venna Ruble, Tatum Treece, Dale Clutter, Harper Houe, Emmelynn Okang, Kaylee Stoller

FOURTH GRADE:

All A's - Skylar Goins, Avalyn Beining, Natalie Heier, Clara Laukhuf, Emily McClure, California Nieto, Nelli Orona, Gracelynn Shelton, Weslen Tucker, Kipton Jay, Aizlee Ricker, Kinsley Sinn, Sloane Sinn, Mason Stoller, Bentley Wright

All A/B's - Skylar Drummond, Collin Miller, Mia Marrufo, Ryleigh Millwood, Cyntia Pineda

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's - Emery LaBounty, Addilyn Noffsinger, Allison Rojas Palma, Aleyah Stoller, Aden Stoller

All A/B's - Jacoby Hurd, Gabe Schlatter, Damien Selzer, Tyler Baksa, Marlie-Jane Clutter

All B's - Landyn Miller, Bode Roth, Katelyn Plummer, Sophia Rhodes-Varner

SIXTH GRADE:

All A's - Evan Heier, Brianna McClure, Jase Miller, Austin Stoller, Lyla Stoller, Chandler Sinn, Jayde Sinn

All A/B's - Mia Kamphaus, Alirah Ricker

All B's - Sophia Canfield

LINCOLNVIEW TOPS VAN WERT IN GIRLS BASKETBALL ACTION

Lincolnview Lancers picked up a 42-29 road win over Van Wert Cougars on January 3 at Van Wert.

Lincolnview built momentum as the game progressed, using steady scoring in each quarter to pull away from the Cougars. Van Wert worked to stay within striking distance early, but Lincolnview's defensive pressure and consistent offensive execution proved to be the difference as the game moved into the second half.

Keira Breese led Lincolnview with 16 points, Hammons with 10, Byrne with 4, Elling with 3, and Walker, Horstman and Wilkinson rounded out the scoreboard with 2 points each.

Van Wert lit up their side of the scoreboard with points from Dowdy (12), Florence (9), DeAmicis (6), and Foster (2).

The loss dropped Van Wert to 0-10 on the season, while Lincolnview improved its record with the road victory.



ANTWERP POLICE REPORT

December 16: The Antwerp Police Department was contacted regarding a resident who had not received an expected Amazon package. The officer responded to the residence, drove around the area, and located the package at the fire department.

December 22: The Defiance Police Department requested that an individual in the village be contacted. The officer located the person at Leinard Mobile Home Park and advised them to call the Defiance Police Department.

December 27: The Antwerp Police Department assisted Antwerp EMS with a call.

December 29: The police department was contacted regarding a manhole cover that had come off and was in the street near North Main Street.

The Antwerp Police Department was also requested to unlock a vehicle at North Garden Apartments.

December 30: A resident reported that he believed his ex-girlfriend was creating fake Facebook accounts using his name. A report was prepared and forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

An officer located a bicycle near the Root Beer Stand. The bicycle was brought to the police department for safekeeping.

December 31: The police department was requested to conduct a welfare check on an elderly resident. Everything was found to be in order.

A vehicle was stopped on River Street near Wentworth Street for exceeding the posted speed limit. The driver was cited for speeding and driving under suspension.

January 1: A records check was performed at the request of the military.

January 3: A resident contacted the Antwerp Police Department regarding a motor vehicle accident on the curve outside the village limits. The Paulding County Sheriff's Office was notified and responded to handle the report.

January 5: An officer assisted EMS with a semi-truck driver experiencing a medical emergency at Dollar General.

An officer also assisted with unlocking a vehicle at the Dollar Store.

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

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

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.

NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME

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

IN RE: Change of Name of
KANE MICHAEL JAMES
(Present Name) to
KANE MICHAEL HOSLER
(Name Requested)
Case No. 20256011

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

Applicant gives notice that the Applicant has filed an Application for Change of Name in this Court requesting the change of name of KANE MICHAEL JAMES to KANE MICHAEL HOSLER

A hearing on the Application will

FILED

JAN 07 2026

PROBATE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OH

be held on the 17th day of February, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in the Probate Court of Paulding County, located at 115 N. Williams St., Suite 202, Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Applicant's Signature
RIAN JAMES
Typed or Printed Name
362 S. SHERMAN, PO BOX 128
Address
SCOTT OH 45886
City State Zip
RMJAMES2017@GMAIL.COM
Email Address

NOTICE OF ON-LINE SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Revised Code, Section 5721.19.1

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

In the Matter of Foreclosure of Liens for delinquent land taxes:

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

vs.

CLARENCE J. TURNER, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 158

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against certain parcels of real property for taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges as follows:

Plum Street, Cecil (4 parcels)
Parcel Number: 15-02S-011-00; 15-02S-010-00; 15-01S-017-00; and, 15-01S-024-00

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

The opening bid is Five Thousand Five Hundred Fourteen and 61/100 (\$5,514.61) Dollars, sufficient to cover pro-rated taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges of this suit.

Whereas, said judgment orders such real property to be sold by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of said judgment;

Now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Jason K. Landers, Sheriff, Paulding County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction to the highest bidder of an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment against each parcel on Thursday, January 29, 2026 by on-line bidding at:

(RealAuction) <https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>. Registration and a Ten and No/100 (\$10.00) deposit must be completed at least one week before the date of the sale.

If this parcel does not receive a sufficient bid, it shall be offered for sale on-line, under the same terms and conditions of the first sale on February 12, 2026 for the same minimum bid.

Bidding begins on scheduled Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. An auction will be conducted for each individual property/court case. After a property is sold, the next scheduled sale will begin.

The purchaser will be required to pay recording costs and transfer fee with the balance of the purchase price after the sale has been confirmed.

Purchaser(s) 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FEDERAL TAX LIEN THAT MAY NOT BE EXTINGUISHED BY THE SALE, AND PURCHASERS OF ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY ARE URGED TO SEARCH THE FEDERAL TAX LIEN INDEX THAT IS KEPT BY THE COUNTY RECORDER TO DETERMINE IF NOTICE OF A FEDERAL TAX LIEN HAS BEEN FILED WITH RESPECT TO ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com
Joseph R. Burkard, Prosecuting Attorney

NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME

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

IN RE: Change of Name of
JAXON PAUL JAMES (Present Name) to
JAXON PAUL HOSLER (Name Requested)
Case No. 20256012

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

Applicant gives notice that the Applicant has filed an Application for Change of Name in this Court requesting the change of name of JAXON PAUL JAMES to JAXON PAUL HOSLER

A hearing on the Application will

FILED

JAN 07 2026

PROBATE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OH

be held on the 17th day of February, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in the Probate Court of Paulding County, located at 115 N. Williams St., Suite 202, Paulding, Ohio 45879.

Applicant's Signature
RIAN JAMES
Typed or Printed Name
362 S. SHERMAN, PO BOX 128
Address
SCOTT OH 45886
City State Zip
RMJAMES2017@GMAIL.COM
Email Address

BOY SCOUT TROOP 315 RECOGNIZED FOR SUPPORT OF VETERANS



Members of Boy Scout Troop 315 were recently thanked during a pizza party hosted by Paulding Veterans Memorial Wreaths in appreciation of their continued service to local veterans.

Each year, the Scouts assist with the Wreaths Across America Ceremony, helping

place wreaths and support the mission of remembering and honoring those who served. Organizers praised the Scouts for their dedication, reliability, and respect shown to veterans and their families.

During the gathering, Paulding Veterans Memorial Wreaths also announced a

"Save the Date" for December 19, 2026, marking the planned Wreaths Across America ceremony at the end of this year. Community members are encouraged to keep the date in mind as preparations continue for the annual event honoring the nation's veterans.

PAULDING RACES PAST EDON

Paulding took control from the opening tip and never looked back, rolling to a 69-46 boys basketball win over Edon on January 5 at Paulding.

Paulding seized control early, exploding for 24 points in the opening quarter while holding Edon to just three. The Panthers extended their lead to 42-23 by halftime and continued to build separation in the third quarter with a 20-17 advantage before cruising through the final period to secure the win.

Tyson Manz and Xander Kuckuck led Paulding with 17 points apiece. Blake Rhonehouse added 11 points, including a trio of three-pointers, while Gannon Parrett contributed 14 points. Grady Barton scored four points, Javvon Stiltner added four, and Zachary Barton chipped in two as the Panthers placed seven players in the scoring column.

Edon was led by Kendol Brigle with 17 points, while Briggs Gallehue followed

closely with 14. Corbin Chrisman finished with six points, Grant Reed added four, and Lincoln Kiess and Kadin Stantz rounded out the scoring as Edon battled back after a slow start.

BAGLEY'S BIG NIGHT LIFTS ANTWERP PAST HILLTOP

A dominant second quarter and a standout scoring performance from Briley Bagley propelled Antwerp Archers to a 51-43 road victory over Hilltop Cadets on January 3 at Hilltop.

Hilltop opened the game with a 15-10 advantage after the first quarter, but Antwerp responded with a decisive 20-5 run in the second period to take control heading into halftime with a 30-20 lead. The Cadets attempted to rally in the third quarter, matching Antwerp with 15 points, but the Archers maintained their cushion and held Hilltop to eight points in the final frame to secure the win.

Bagley led all scorers with a game-high 26 points for Antwerp, knocking down six two-point field goals, four

three-pointers, and converting at the free-throw line to anchor the Archers' offense. Clara Rohrs added 10 points, while Eliana Hormann contributed eight. Raeley Franklin scored three points, and Avery Honigford and Aliyah Friend chipped in two points apiece as Antwerp finished with 15 made three-pointers.

Hilltop was paced by Sophia Crossgrove with 19 points, including seven three-pointers. Kenley Routt added nine points, while Kelsy Connolly scored six and Molly Dickinson finished with five. Despite strong outside shooting, Hilltop could not overcome Antwerp's second-quarter surge.

GENOA EDGES WAYNE TRACE IN OVERTIME ACTION

A back-and-forth battle went to overtime before Genoa Comets held off Wayne Trace Raiders for a 53-51 victory on January 3 at Genoa.

Genoa came out strong, jumping to a 17-6 first-quarter lead, but Wayne Trace steadily chipped away at the

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FOR DIAPER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



Congratulations to St. Mary Catholic Church Food Pantry for receiving a \$1,000 grant from our DAF Community Fund during our fall 2025 grant cycle.

Partnering with other local churches, this money will be used to purchase diapers for families in need in our area.

Pictured with the grant

are Rob and Jean Carr - De-fiance Catholic Food Pantry Steering Committee members and Drew Shindler - DAF Board Vice President.

deficit. The Raiders outscored the Comets 19-9 in the third quarter to take their first lead of the night and carried momentum into the fourth. Genoa responded late to force overtime, where the Comets outscored Wayne Trace 6-4 to secure the two-point win and remain unbeaten at 7-0.

Wayne Trace was led by Caden Sinn with 16 points, while Tanner Laukhuf added 14. Carter Clemens chipped in eight points, and Lance Maenle scored seven as the Raiders spread the scoring across the lineup. Wayne Trace finished with 11 made three-pointers and forced Genoa into a tightly contested finish after trailing early.

Genoa was paced by Walter Plantz with a game-high 19 points. Ryan Routson added 13 points, while Myles Mollenhauer scored nine and Ty Asman contributed seven. Jax Magnone added five points as the Comets leaned on balanced scoring and strong rebounding to prevail in overtime.

In junior varsity action, Genoa also claimed an overtime win, defeating Wayne Trace 42-40.

WOODLAN EDGES JAY COUNTY IN ROAD THRILLER

A strong second half and balanced scoring helped Woodlan Warriors slip past Jay County Patriots for a 56-54 victory on January 2 at Jay County.

The game was tight from the opening tip, with Jay County holding an 18-15 edge after the first quarter. Both teams scored 11 points in the second period, sending the Patriots into halftime with a slim 29-26 lead. Woodlan responded after the break, outscoring Jay County 16-14 in the third quarter to pull within one, then closed the game by winning the fourth quarter 14-11 to secure the two-point road win.

Woodlan was led by Anderson with a team-high 17 points. Scheumann added 12 points, while Sterling finished with 11. McDaniel chipped in six points, Peoples scored four, and Hodson and Crozier added three points apiece as the Warriors placed seven players in the scoring column.

Jay County was paced by Hallie Schwieterman's game-high 30 points. Newton added 10 points, Karsyn Schwieterman scored nine, and May contributed five, but the Patriots came up just short despite

the strong individual performances.

PAULDING PULLS AWAY FROM EDON FOR HOME WIN

Paulding used an early surge and sustained control throughout the night to earn a 69-47 boys basketball victory over Edon Bombers on January 5 at Paulding. The win improved the Paulding Panthers to 6-3 on the season.

Paulding established the tone from the opening quarter, building a commanding lead that it never relinquished. The Panthers shot efficiently from the field and consistently won the rebounding battle, allowing them to extend the margin as the game progressed.

Tyson Manz led all scorers with 17 points, converting 8-of-10 shots from the field. Xander Kuckuck matched that output with 17 points of his own, adding four free throws and strong work inside. Gannon Parrett followed with 14 points, while Blake Rhonehouse added 11, knocking down three three-pointers and going perfect at the free-throw line. Javvon Stiltner chipped in four points, and Grady Barton and Zach Barton rounded out the scoring as Paulding placed seven players in the scoring column.

As a team, Paulding finished 27-of-57 from the field and shot better than 60 percent inside the arc, while also converting 8-of-10 free throws. The Panthers controlled the glass and moved the ball well, finishing with 16 assists.

Edon was led by Kendol Brigle and Briggs Gallehue, who accounted for much of the Bombers' offense. Despite a solid shooting effort, Edon struggled to keep pace with Paulding's depth and consistent pressure on both ends of the floor.

SCHEUMANN LEADS WOODLAN PAST BLACKHAWK CHRISTIAN

A strong middle stretch

powered Woodlan Warriors to a 66-53 girls basketball victory over Blackhawk Christian Braves on January 8 at Blackhawk Christian.

Woodlan jumped out to a 13-9 lead after the opening quarter and widened the gap before halftime by outscoring the Braves 19-11 in the second period. The Warriors continued to build separation in the third quarter with a 21-11 advantage, taking a commanding lead into the final frame before Blackhawk Christian closed strong with 22 points in the fourth.

Scheumann led all scorers with a game-high 23 points for Woodlan. Anderson added 17 points, while Sterling finished with nine. Hodson and Thullner scored five points apiece, Crozier added two, and Gillingham contributed five as the Warriors placed seven players in the scoring column.

Blackhawk Christian was paced by Sefton with 14 points and Pickett with 13. Pope and Wampole each scored nine points, while Steele added six and Helmuth chipped in two. Despite a late offensive push, the Braves were unable to overcome Woodlan's decisive second and third quarters.

CRESTVIEW PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT ANTWERP, 66-44

A strong shooting night and control of the boards lifted Crestview Knights to a 66-44 win over Antwerp Archers on January 3 at Antwerp.

Crestview jumped out to an early advantage and maintained steady pressure throughout the game. The Knights shot 58 percent from the field and held a decisive edge on the glass, out-rebounding Antwerp 27-14. Crestview also limited mistakes, committing just nine turnovers compared to Antwerp's 11, which helped keep momentum on the visitors' side.

Antwerp shot 40 percent from the floor and worked to

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The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

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stay within reach, but Crestview's efficiency and depth proved difficult to overcome. Zaine McMichael led the Archers with 12 points, while Brayden Fuller added eight. Hampton Rogge scored seven points, and Weston Rhonehouse and Noah Lucas each chipped in six. Lincoln Lucas rounded out the scoring with five points.

Crestview was led by Heckler with 16 points, while Perrott added 14. Putman finished with 12 points, and Sheets contributed 10 as the Knights placed multiple players in double figures and continued to extend the lead as the game progressed.

In junior varsity action, Crestview completed the sweep with a 48-24 win over Antwerp.

CELINA PULLS AWAY FROM VAN WERT IN ROAD CONFERENCE MATCHUP

A strong second half allowed Celina Bulldogs to pull away from Van Wert Cougars in girls basketball action on January 8 at Van Wert, 46-21.

The game remained competitive early as both teams worked through half-court sets and traded baskets, but Celina began to create separation by halftime. Consistent defensive pressure forced turnovers and limited Van Wert's scoring opportunities, allowing the Bulldogs to extend their lead heading into the final quarter.

Van Wert continued to battle despite the deficit, looking to generate offense in transition and on second-chance opportunities. The Cougars showed effort on the boards and moved the ball well, but struggled to find a consistent scoring rhythm against Celina's defense.

Celina capitalized on its opportunities at both ends of the floor, using steady execution to control the tempo and close out the road victory. The loss dropped Van Wert to 0-12 on the season, while Celina improved its overall record with the win.

In junior varsity action, Celina also earned a narrow win, defeating Van Wert 17-16.

ANTWERP BOARD HOLDS ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING, ACCEPTS RECKER RESIGNATION, CALLS FOR NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

HELP WANTED:

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

HELP WANTED

PC BOARD OF ELECTIONS DIRECTOR

The Paulding County Board of Elections is currently seeking to fill the position of Director. Applicants for this full-time position must be a registered Republican with an active 2-year voter history, resident of Paulding County, pass a background check, and have a minimum of a high school diploma or GED. Excellent leadership, dependability, flexibility, organizational and people skills are a must. Candidates must understand Microsoft applications, the ability to learn software, and understand and follow the State of Ohio election guidelines. This full-time position pays an hourly wage of \$24.88 and includes optional county-provided health insurance and OPERS pension. Any interested applicants can check the Paulding County Board of Elections website for a job description. Email, mail, or drop off in person a resume to:

paulding@ohiosos.gov
Paulding County Board of Elections • 105 E Perry St., Paulding OH 45879
PC BOE is an Equal Opportunity Employer

BER APPLICATIONS

The Antwerp Local School District Board of Education met on Monday, January 6, 2026, beginning with its annual organizational meeting followed by the regular monthly session. Board members Anita Bok, Robert Herber, Jayme Landers, and Sara Schuette were present.

During the organizational meeting, the board appointed Anita Bok as Student Achievement Liaison and Robert Herber as Legislative Liaison to the Ohio School Boards Association. The board set its regular meeting schedule for the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Board of Education conference room. The board also renewed annual authorizations for routine fiscal and administrative operations, including investment authority, employment procedures, records commissions, and public expenditures. A correction was noted in the list of depositories, changing "Premier Bank" to "Wes Banco."

The board then adjourned the organizational meeting at 5:09 p.m. and proceeded into the regular session.

Superintendent Dr. Marty Miller recognized visitors, including bus driver Bob Phillips, student Nate Sanders and his mother, and Bryce Steiner from the West Bend News. The board approved the agenda and the minutes from the December 18, 2025 meeting.

Treasurer Kristine Stuart reported December receipts of \$741,473.60 and expenditures of \$957,373.23. Interest earned totaled \$44,882.92. With the fiscal year halfway complete, the district has received 49.53% of projected revenue and spent 45.33% of its projected expenses, staying slightly under budget.

Middle/High School Principal Jesse Arnold noted the start of the second semester and thanked coaches and advisors for working with students through the holiday break. Upcoming events include a two-hour delay in-service day on January 28, during which the school resource officer will conduct ALICE safety training. Students interested in welding and CNC machining will tour Saber Industries and Hicksville-area businesses in coordination with the Paulding County Economic Development office.

Dr. Miller shared that the district gained five students since the December meeting. He also reported that new key fob access systems for the C & D wings are now active. January's required public report showed no harassment, intimidation, or bullying incidents meeting the legal threshold during the first semester.

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FOR SALE: 12000 Badlands Winch with remote with universal truck mount - \$449 - New in Boxes 419-258-0127

TIMBER WANTED: Specializing in walnut trees, white oak trees and hardwood trees. Buyer of standing timber. Call Gary Keegan 517-296-4601 2-31p

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

MOWER LIFT FOR SALE: Huskee HZR350 Lift for riding or zero turn lawn mower. \$650obo. Call 419-258-0127

In recognition of School Board Appreciation Month, the district displayed a banner and calendar in the meeting room. Dr. Miller noted the board's combined 74 years of service, with Bob Herber in his 24th year, Anita Bok recently surpassing 20 years, Sara Schuette in her 10th, and Jayme Landers has served 8.5 years.

Dr. Miller announced that board member Dennis Recker had submitted his resignation due to relocating outside the district. Recker served on the board for 14 years. His letter expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and pride in the district's improvements in staffing, finances, and facilities.

To fill the vacancy, the board called for letters of interest to be submitted to Treasurer Kristine Stuart by January 16 at 3:00 p.m. Candidates will be reviewed in executive session during the February board meeting.

In other business, the board discussed ongoing staffing evaluations and enrollment trends, updated members on new electronic entry systems and camera integration, and confirmed that the Fob system installation was completed over winter break. A curriculum update will be presented at the next meeting, and the board was informed that baseball participation numbers are currently below the threshold needed to field a full team.

The board approved several consent items, including:

- Substitute list approval
- Resignation of Dennis Recker
- Travel for juniors and seniors to tour local industry partners
- Acknowledgment of 0 bullying incidents for first semester

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m. The board tentatively rescheduled its next meeting to Tuesday, February 17, at 5:30 p.m., pending board member availability.

Treasurer's report
Income: 741,473.60
Expenses: 957,372.23
Interest: \$44,820.92

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DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Blake T. Keeley of Haviland was cited for no tail lights and found guilty. He was fined \$70 plus court costs totaling \$105. A related charge of O.V.I./Under Influence was dismissed.

Emily R. Keezer of Paulding was found guilty of failure to control. She was fined \$95 plus \$70 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Samuel Palacios of Antwerp was found guilty of assault. He was fined \$150 plus \$402 in court costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail with 178 days suspended. He was placed on standard probation with requirements including a mental health and anger management evaluation, 20 hours of community service, attending the "Keeping it in Check" class, and completing a risk assessment. He was ordered to report to probation immediately.

Timmy G. Stahl of Oakwood had a charge of aggravated menacing dismissed. On a separate count, he was found guilty of criminal damaging. He was fined \$100 plus \$388 in costs and sentenced to 90 days in jail with 85 days suspended. Conditions of probation included no contact with the victim, 10 hours of community service, a mental health evaluation and treatment, the "Keeping it in Check" class, a risk assessment, and online classes.

Krystal M. Fuentes of Cecil was found guilty of contributing to the unruliness or delinquency of a child. She was fined \$100 plus \$399 in court costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail, all suspended. She was ordered to follow additional probation rules, complete 10 hours of community service, attend the "Keeping it in Check" class, comply with a Juvenile Court case plan, and sign a release of information for probation.

Alexander M. Stump of Van Wert had a charge of telephone harassment dismissed. On a separate charge of assault, he was found guilty and fined \$100 plus \$403 in court costs.

He was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 177 suspended. Conditions of probation included no unlawful contact with the victim, 20 hours of community service, an assessment and completion of treatment, the "Keeping it in Check" class, online coursework, and a risk assessment.

Cassidy J. Creech of Perrysburg had charges for reckless operation and display of plates dismissed.

Julius O. Omonayin of Paulding was found guilty of OVI (breath, low level) and sentenced to 3 days in jail with the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of jail time. His license was suspended from December 23, 2025, to December 23, 2026.

Emily L. Foltz of Payne was found guilty of driving while texting.

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (10) persons on Thursday, January 8, 2026

Christopher Jay Fellers (8/28/1985), Haviland, Ohio; Domestic violence, F4

James Michael Cooper (6/20/1964), Grover Hill, Ohio; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

Leonard Jack Feeney (12/18/1985), Melrose, Ohio; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

David Ray Torman (2/3/1971), Cloverdale, Ohio; Open burning or open dumping of solid waste, F5

Broc L. Baughman (3/21/1990), Ottoville, Ohio; Aggravated trafficking in drugs, F4

Aaron J. Longwell (8/15/1989), Antwerp, Ohio; Nonsupport of dependents, F4

Jason Lynn Fisher (2/6/1976), Antwerp, Ohio; Aggravated possession of drugs, F5

Kaden A. Aguilar (11/19/2001), Defiance, Ohio; Nonsupport of dependents, F5

Shantel Marie Collins (12/31/1988), Cloverdale, Ohio; Aggravated trafficking

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

in drugs, F4

Chad A. Mullins (1/10/1981), Paulding, Ohio; Nonsupport of dependents, F5

STUDENTS NAMED TO TRINE UNIVERSITY DEAN'S LIST

Trine University students were named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To earn Dean's List honors, students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.500-3.749.

The following area students were named to the Dean's List:

- Peyton Adams of Paulding, majoring in Athletics and Recreation
- Alexander Baughman of Paulding, majoring in General Engineering
- Aiden Miller of Oakwood, majoring in Chemical Engineering

STUDENTS NAMED TO TRINE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S LIST

Trine University students were named to the President's List for the Fall 2025 semester. To earn President's List honors, students must complete a minimum of 12 hours and have a grade point average of 3.750-4.000.

The follow area students were named to the President's List:

- Casey Agler of Paulding, majoring in Biomedical Engineering
- Brooke Molitor of Antwerp, majoring in Exercise Science-Pre Phys Therapy 3+3
- Hannah Molitor of Antwerp, majoring in Exercise Science-Pre Phys Therapy 3+3

HELP WANTED

Village of Payne • CHIEF OF POLICE

The Village of Payne, Ohio, is accepting applications for the position of Chief of Police.

This is a full-time leadership position responsible for the administration, supervision, and operation of the Payne Police Department. Salary and benefits are established by Village ordinance and policy.

The full job description and employment qualifications are available on the Village website at www.villageofpayne.com under the "Job Openings" tab.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026
Position Effective Date: March 4, 2026

Resumes may be emailed to Mayor Lora Lyons at mayor@villageofpayne.com or dropped off at Village Hall, 119 N. Main Street, Payne, Ohio 45880.

The Village of Payne is an Equal Opportunity Employer

HELP WANTED

Village of Payne • FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

The Village of Payne, Ohio, is accepting applications for a Full-Time Police Officer position with primary assignment to evening and nighttime shifts.

This position performs general law enforcement duties including patrol, investigations, traffic enforcement, emergency response, and community service. Salary and benefits are established by Village ordinance and policy.

The full job description and employment qualifications are available on the Village website at www.villageofpayne.com under the "Job Openings" tab.

Application Deadline: January 31, 2026
Position Effective Date: March 4, 2026

Resumes may be emailed to Mayor Lora Lyons at mayor@villageofpayne.com or dropped off at Village Hall, 119 N. Main Street, Payne, Ohio 45880.

The Village of Payne is an Equal Opportunity Employer

CECIL COUNCIL DONATES \$1000 TO THE KITTY HOPE FOUNDATION



Cecil Gene Sheets and council president Julie McCloud donated \$1,000 to Jenna Benzing, director of The Kitty Hope Foundation. Funds support the Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) program which seeks to humanely reduce the number of community cats while increasing their quality of life.

Since its launch just one year ago in January 2025, The Kitty Hope Foundation has successfully facilitated the spaying and neutering of over 400 community cats in Paulding County!

The Foundation's efforts have been most recently supported by a generous \$1000 donation from the Cecil town council.

Why should more communities support this practice? Because Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) is the only method that has been scientifically demonstrated to

work at reducing community cat populations over time – killing or moving cats has repeatedly been shown to be ineffective. The neutered cats are also vaccinated so they aren't contributing to either overpopulation or disease. And as a bonus, the cats returned into their community continue to defend their territory, reducing the tendency for other unfixed, unvaccinated cats to move in.

THANK YOU, Cecil for becoming involved and supporting The Kitty Hope Foundation's mission!

The Kitty Hope Foundation's spay/neuter transport program is also open to the public! For the low cost of \$55, a community cat will receive sterilization surgery, vaccination, ear tipping, plus a basic veterinary examination.

Interested in scheduling a spay/neuter, donating, volunteering, fostering, adopting, or simply learning more?

Email The Kitty Hope Foundation at: thekittyhopefoundation@gmail.com

PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION ENCOURAGES LOCAL STUDENTS TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Paulding County Area Foundation is excited to share scholarship opportunities available to students throughout Paulding County. These scholarships are made possible through the generosity of local donors and are designed to help students take the next step toward their educational and career goals.

Scholarships are available for students attending or graduating from the following local schools and institutions:

- Antwerp Local Schools
 - Paulding Exempted Village Schools
 - Wayne Trace Local School District
 - Vantage Career Center
- Students and families are encouraged to explore the full list of available scholarships by visiting www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com and clicking on the "Scholarships" tab. Each Scholarship includes specific eligibility criteria and application details.

All scholarship applications must be submitted by April 10, 2026. Students are encouraged to apply early and take advantage of these

opportunities to support their future education and training.

The Paulding County Area Foundation is also happy to work with individuals, families, businesses, and organizations who are interested in creating a scholarship fund of their own. Establishing a scholarship is a meaningful way to support local students and make a lasting impact in the Paulding County community.

For more information about available scholarships or to learn how to open a scholarship fund, please contact the Paulding County

Area Foundation at (419) 399-8296.

About the Paulding County Area Foundation The Paulding County Area Foundation is committed to strengthening Paulding County by connecting generous donors with local needs, supporting education, and creating opportunities that help our community thrive.

FW FARM SHOW RETURNS TO ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

The Fort Wayne Farm Show, one of the Midwest's premier agricultural events, is set to welcome over 25,000 farmers and industry professionals once again this year. Known for showcasing the latest in farm technology and innovation, the show provides attendees with access to the region's largest variety of farm equipment and services, all conveniently located under one roof.

The Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District, in collaboration with Purdue Cooperative Extension Services, will offer daily educational seminars designed to address key topics in modern farming.

This year's show is also highlighted by a grand prize giveaway: a 54 inch Toro TimeCutter Zero Turn Lawn Mower, generously provided by Plevna Implement, located at 1503 Wiant Dr., Garrett, IN 46738. Entry for the grand prize is free.

Supporting the future of agriculture, the Indiana FFA Scholarship Foundation will hold a fundraising auction at 1:00 PM on both Tuesday and Wednesday of the show. A wide range of donated items will be up for bid, with proceeds benefiting the scholarship program. The Benefit Auction annually raises over \$20,000 for the Indiana FFA Foundation.

The Fort Wayne Farm Show is produced by Tradexpos, Inc., who also organize the North American Farm & Power Show in Owatonna, MN, and the Topeka Farm Show in Kansas.

VISIT THE TRADEXPOS WEBSITE AT www.tradexpos.com

SHOW DATES AND HOURS:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE!!

SARAHS HOUSE RECEIVES \$2,543 GRANT FOR FACILITY UPGRADES



Congratulations to Sarahs House for receiving a \$2,543 grant for floor and furniture upgrades, which have not been updated since 1991. This grant was awarded during the Defiance Area Foundation fall

grant cycle. Pictured above are Michelle White, Director of the Defiance County Victims Assistance and Deb Hench, DAF Grants Committee member.

BENZING SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



Pictured here are Jenna Benzing and Jill Strahley, Paulding Chamber of Commerce Director.

The Kiwanis Club recently welcomed Jenna Benzing as its weekly guest speaker. Benzing was featured as a Chamber Spotlight and is the founder of The Kitty Hope Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established last year to address the growing stray cat population in Paulding

County. What began as a personal passion project has evolved into a structured community effort offering three core programs: Adoption, Foster, and TNR (Trap, Neuter & Return). The TNR program, which is open to the public, has become the foundation's most utilized service. It provides essential care—including spay/neuter surgery, vaccinations, and flea treatment—for a nominal fee.

During her presentation, Benzing shared 2025 program statistics, demonstrating the significant impact the foundation has already made in reducing stray and feral cat populations while improving animal welfare throughout the county. She has more programs coming soon!

The Kitty Hope Foundation relies on community support to continue its mission. Individuals interested in donating, fostering, or assisting with transportation for spay/neuter appointments are encouraged to get involved.

For more information or to help support the mission, contact Jenna Benzing at thekittyhopefoundation@gmail.com.

JANUARY FARM TOY AUCTIONS

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Friday, January 23 @ 12 pm ET
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