

# The WEST BEND NEWS

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 5

Good News for Good Communities - Serving Northwest Ohio and Northeast Indiana

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2026

## WOODLAN ROBOTICS TEAM EARNS SPOT AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WITH TEAMWORK AWARD



Team Members Pictured are - Back row left to right: Case Emehiser, Cooper Smith, Charles Koenemann, Xander Wagner Front Row: Brinley Wagner, Addison Stebing.

Woodlan Jr/Sr High robotics team 75263A is heading to Indiana's biggest robotics stage after an impressive performance at a recent VEX IQ competition. The team captured the coveted Teamwork Award, securing their spot at the Indiana State Championship to be held at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. Advancing to the state competition at Lucas Oil Stadium is a major milestone. The iconic venue, home of the Indi-

anapolis Colts, will be transformed into a massive robotics arena filled with hundreds of the best student teams from across Indiana.

The Teamwork Award recognizes not just technical skill, but the ability to collaborate, strategize, and perform under pressure alongside another alliance partner. Throughout the daylong tournament, the team demonstrated exactly that—communicating clearly, adapting quickly to changing

match conditions, and consistently earning high scores with a variety of partners.

VEX IQ is a hands-on robotics program for elementary and middle school students that challenges teams to design, build, and program robots to complete game-specific tasks. This year's game requires precise driving, strategic thinking, and well-tuned mechanisms, making teamwork essential for success.

## MARTIN & GURNEY SPEAKS TO KIWANIS CLUB



The Paulding Kiwanis Club welcomed Jesse Martin of The Nature Conservancy and Anna Gurney of Paulding Soil & Water Conservation District as guest speakers at its recent meeting. Both guests attended at the invitation of Kiwanis member Jane Gray.

Martin shared an overview of the Black Swamp Nature Center Wetland Restoration Project, which is being made possible through grant

funding. His presentation highlighted current invasive plant species affecting the area and outlined plans to restore the wetland using native plant species, along with several additional environmental improvements.

Community meetings will be scheduled in the future to provide more information about the project and offer opportunities for public input. The goal is to begin the restoration project in 2027.

### PC RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOC. MEETING DATE SET

The next scheduled meeting for the Paulding County Retired Teachers Association is Tuesday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m. at the Paulding Pancake House. Weather permitting, the group will meet for food and fellowship. There will be no program. All retired teachers from Antwerp, Wayne Trace, and Paulding School Districts are invited to attend.

### PAULDING AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE APPLAUDS PAULDING CARE COMMUNITY FOR INNOVATIVE WOUND HEALING THERAPY

PAULDING, OH - The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight a significant advancement in local healthcare following a recent educational

session hosted by Paulding Care Community (formerly The Gardens of Paulding). The training showcased a revolutionary treatment option, Vaporox Hyperoxia Therapy (VHT), which is now available for both inpatient and outpatient clients.

Jill Strahley, Executive Director of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce, was honored to be invited by Vickie English, Social Services at Paulding Care Community, to sit in on this special training session to learn firsthand about a therapy that is transforming patient lives. "I want to thank Vickie and the entire team at Paulding Care Community for inviting me to be a part of this special event," said Strahley. "I am thrilled to be able to share what I learned with the public, as it represents a major step forward in efficient and effective care for our community."

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

## Community Calendar

- TUE & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p
- February 3**
- Kinship Caregivers Support Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding 6-7p
  - Microsoft 365 Excel Training @ NSCC, Archbold, 8a-4p
- February 4**
- Senior Citizens Dinner @ Antwerp VFW @ noon
- February 5**
- Microsoft 365 Excel Training @ NSCC, Van Wert, 8a-4p
  - Honest Abe @ Defiance Library, 5-6:30p
  - Coffee Talk at Paulding Library, 1p
  - Crystal Clear Intentions @ Grover Hill Library
  - MS. Roper's Craft Blast @ Oakwood Library, 5p
- February 9**
- Vantage Career Center Open House & Taste of Vantage @ Vantage, VW, 5-7:30p
- February 10**
- Kinship Caregivers Support Group @ Recovery Clubhouse, Paulding 6-7p
  - PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
  - Valentine Movie & Game Night @ Paulding Library Children's Rm., 5-6p
  - PCRTA Meeting @ Paulding Pancake House, 10a
- February 12**
- Coffee Talk at Paulding Library, 1p
  - Senior Bingo @ Grover Hill Library, 1p
  - WT Art Club Valentine Party @ Payne Library, 4-5p

Add your event to the calendar - info@westbendnews.net

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**HONOR A VETERAN!**

Have their name engraved on a granite panel at the new Paulding Veterans Memorial.

The cost per name is \$200.

Engravings can be dedicated to current military members or those who have honorably completed their service.

The order form to have a veteran's name engraved on a granite panel may be picked up at the Paulding VFW Post, Paulding ACE Hardware, Paulding Veterans Services, Paulding County Area Foundation or Kausser Trucking.

The order form may also be obtained by scanning the QR to the right or by calling John Daeger at 419-989-0548.

### ANTWERP VFW TO HOST "LITTLE LOVES & BIG HUGS" VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Antwerp VFW Post 5087 will host a special family-friendly Valentine's event, Little Loves & Big Hugs Valentine's Dance, on Saturday, February 21, 2026. The event will take place from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the VFW, offering an evening designed for adults and children to enjoy together.

The dance will include dinner and music, giving families a chance to celebrate Valentine's Day by spending quality time with the "little loves" in their lives. Organizers describe the evening as a warm, fun-filled night focused on making memories across generations.

Contact the VFW by February 15. 419-258-4231.

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**OBITUARIES**



for her loving heart, quiet strength, and the deep love she had for her family. She leaves behind many cherished memories that will be forever held close by those who knew and loved her.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH with Pastor Jeff Miller officiating. Burial will take place in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Jackson Township.

Visitation will be from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH. There will also be calling one hour prior to the funeral service on Saturday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made in Sharon's memory to the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry or to the Vancrest of Payne Activities Fund.

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



**HARLAN, IN:**

**Doris Louise Applegate, 94,** of Harlan, Indiana, celebrated with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. She passed away at her home, where she had lived for over 60 years, surrounded by her caregivers and family.

Born in Battle Creek, Michigan, on August 4, 1931, to Rolland and Velma (Fox) Coleman, Doris was the oldest of five children. She graduated as salutatorian from Athens High School in Calhoun County, Michigan, in 1949. While in school, she played girls' basketball and softball and sang in the school quartet.

After high school, Doris worked as a switchboard operator in Athens, Michigan. She met her husband, Foster Jay Applegate, on a New Year's Eve blind date arranged by her brother and Foster's cousin. Eight months later, on August 5, 1950, they eloped at Lake James, Angola, Indiana, with her brother-in-law and sister as witnesses. Doris and Foster shared more than 49 years of marriage before his passing on

July 4, 2000, at the age of 72. During their marriage, Doris devoted herself to being a wife and mother and worked alongside Foster as a partner in their farming business in Harlan, Indiana.

Doris enjoyed puzzles, board games, listening to music and scripture on tape, painting, playing the piano, singing hymns, and reading. She wrote poems and stories for local newspapers, including the East Allen Courier and the West Bend News. Doris faithfully served her Lord and Savior as a devoted prayer warrior, openly sharing her friendship with Jesus. Her deep faith in Christ was reflected in her dedication to her church community. Her favorite scripture was Romans 10:9.

She is survived by her three sons, Byron (Janine Eby) Applegate, Alan (Gala) Applegate, and Jeff (Susie) Applegate. Doris was a loving grandmother to Angie (Brian) Carnes, Andrew (Irene Paxia) Applegate, Abby (Brandon) Wahl, Josh Applegate, April Applegate and Alaina Applegate, and a cherished

great-grandmother to Allison Carnes, Veronica Applegate, Liam Applegate, and Gabriel Wahl. Also surviving are her two sisters, Barb (Aaron) Applegate and Hazel Cummins Dick. She was preceded in death by her husband, Foster; parents, Rolland Coleman and Velma Ray; and two brothers, Joe and David Coleman.

Doris will be remembered for her love of life, generosity to her community, family, neighbors, and friends, and her unwavering dedication to Christ.

A private graveside service will be held at North Scipio Cemetery in Harlan, Indiana, with a celebration of life to be announced at a later date. Arrangements are in care of Oberlin-Turnbull Funeral Home, Hicksville.

Instead of flowers, memorials may be given to Gideons International or a charity of one's choice.

Condolences may be sent to the family or memories may be shared at [www.oberlinturnbull.com](http://www.oberlinturnbull.com)

Paul Bratter, Adam Shanaman

Corie Bratter, Alea Rex Mrs. Banks, Amber Evans Victor Velasco, Travis Nihiser

Telephone Repairman, Ed Eichler

Delivery Person, Dizzy Lantz

Performances will be held February 6, 7, 8 and 13, 14, 15 at the Van Wert Civic Theatre.

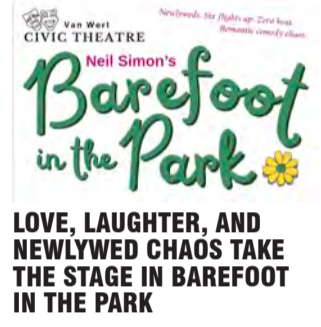
Evening performances begin at 7:30 p.m., with Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Visit [vwct.org](http://vwct.org) or call the box office at 419-238-9689.

Warm up this winter with laughter, love, and classic Neil Simon comedy at the Van Wert Civic Theatre.

**FREE LEGACY PLANNING SEMINAR OFFERED AT FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Everyone can agree that it's important to have a plan for your savings, your home, and your children when you've gone to Heaven. But as many as 70% of us don't have an estate plan in place. First Church of Christ wants to help you learn more about how to reduce taxes, save time and money for your loved ones, designate a guardian for children, and establish a Will or Living Trust for your family. In your Will or Living Trust, you can



**LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND NEWLYWED CHAOS TAKE THE STAGE IN BAREFOOT IN THE PARK**

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is pleased to announce the upcoming production of Neil Simon's beloved romantic comedy, *Barefoot in the Park*, a witty and heartwarming look at marriage, compromise, and the chaos of first apartments.

*Barefoot in the Park* plunges audiences into the hilarious ups and downs of newlyweds Paul and Corie Bratter as they navigate life in their first walk-up apartment—six flights up, no heat, and plenty of opinions. This Neil Simon classic explores the clash of personalities at the early crossroads of marriage, revealing the comedic struggles that come with learning how to live, love, and grow together. Filled with laughter and touching moments, the play reminds us that strong connections can thrive even with big differences, and that love often depends on compromise.

The cast for *Barefoot in the Park* includes:

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Vaporous Hyperoxia Therapy (VHT) is a non-invasive wound care treatment that uses only oxygen and water vapor to support the body's natural healing process. Similar in concept to hyperbaric therapy, VHT delivers concentrated oxygen directly to the wound site without the need for pharmaceuticals, chemicals, or pressure chambers. This approach has been clinically shown to triple the healing rate of chronic wounds, significantly improving patient comfort while reducing the overall time and cost associated with long-term care.

The impact of this technology is best illustrated by its success in treating complex cases. In one instance, a patient with a two-year-old diabetic foot ulcer (DFU) achieved total wound closure in just 12 weeks with 16 VHT treatments. This patient had previously undergone stan-

dard wound care, surgical debridement, and 60 hyperbaric oxygen sessions without success. This breakthrough treatment allowed the patient to avoid potential amputation and begin learning how to walk again.

The introduction of VHT at Paulding Care Community aligns with the Chamber's mission: "The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce exists to exemplify leadership by positively reinforcing and representing our members and businesses in the communities we proudly serve." By bringing cutting-edge medical technology to our area, Paulding Care Community is providing a vital resource that helps restore health to those with chronic wounds.

For more information about the new VHT treatment options, residents are encouraged to contact Paulding Care Community at (419) 399-4940 or visit <https://gardensat-paulding.com/>.

**Scripture of the Week**

"Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love."

— *Ephesians 4:2*

**FAITH COMETH BY HEARING**



Romans 10:17 NKJV: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

"Consequently, the word of God increases our hearing, and our hearing increases our faith. How are you hearing?"

This verse encapsulates a profound truth about the nature of faith and its origins within the Christian faith. The apostle Paul emphasizes that faith is not a mere internal sentiment or an isolated experience; rather, it depends on the word of God being read, received, and communicated through our actions.

1. The phrase "faith comes from hearing" underscores the necessity of active listening. Having a desire to read and receive the word of God. It requires exposure to the truth of the Gospel. The importance of preaching and teaching within the life of the church and individual believers. It is through the proclamation of God's word that people are invited to respond with faith. Moreover, if you take the time to read the word of God, it will always inspire reflection on your current situation.

2. The message that is heard through the word about Christ," points us to the center of Christian faith—the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is crucial to understand that faith is built on the message of Christ, encompassing His life, death, resurrection, and their implications for humanity and your life. When we engage with the Bible, the Gospel of truth, we encounter new reve-

lation, which is the basis for our growth and the foundation of our hope.

3. As believers of the Gospel, we have a responsibility to share the Gospel. If faith comes from hearing the message, then we, as believers, are called to be conduits of that message. Whether through personal conversations, teaching, writing, or through our living, we can play a vital role in helping others hear about Christ and possibly come to believe.

4. Romans 10:17 encourages us not just to receive the word but also to be proactive in sharing it. This could involve inviting others to church, engaging in spiritual discussions, or simply sharing our personal testimonies of faith. (and Lord knows we have some testimonies) (smile). Each of these actions aligns with the belief that faith is nurtured by hearing the word and the truth of God.

In summary, Romans 10:17 beautifully illustrates the interconnectedness between faith and the proclamation of Christ's message. It serves as a powerful reminder for believers to both nurture their own faith through hearing, studying, and to actively share that message with others, hoping that they, too, can come to faith.

Faith grows when we truly listen and study the word of God. If your faith is weakening, perhaps you are not reading, studying, or hearing the word of God enough. Like you, the word of God is an active, living being that must be fed, nourished, and tended to. Every living thing has basic needs: air, water, and nutrients. Jesus is the air we breathe, the living water we drink, and the food that nourishes our souls.

John 6:35 (NIV) says, "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'"

Increase your faith by the hearing of God's word. Let those who have ears hear.

Peace & love,  
—Pastor Dwayne

ensure your desires on medical decisions, guardianship of your children, and distribution of your assets will be fulfilled.

First Church of Christ invites you to attend a FREE Legacy Planning Seminar, Wednesday, February 18, 7:00 p.m., presented by Christian Financial Resources, a ministry partner of FCC. Regardless of your

religious affiliation – or perhaps no affiliation – you will find this information timely and helpful. No information or obligation will be required of you. And there are absolutely no strings attached. Learn more about Christian Financial Resources at [cfrministry.org](http://cfrministry.org). First Church of Christ is located at 118 North Main St., Hicksville, OH.

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**ONLY THE NOSE KNOWS**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**  
By: Nancy Whitaker

This may be a silly question, but what is the worst thing or odor you ever smelled? Oh my, I can think of lots of smelly things, but the worst smell is a toss up.

Things like bleach on your hair, an outhouse, smelly feet, sardines, sewage, garbage, rotten food and just a lot of things our noses just don't want to get a whiff of.

If you have children, you are familiar with baby diapers. Diapers have come a long ways since I had my babies. With pull ups, Pampers and all kinds of wipes, it's a lot easier changing a little one's diaper than it used to be. Easier and less smelly!

For 3 of my children I had cloth diapers, wash cloths, a rinsing tub and a diaper pail.

After a dirty diaper was rinsed it went into a diaper pail with a lid to be washed either by hand or machine.

But, diapers and babies were done with love and care regardless of the aroma.

One evening I came home from work, walked in the house and a rancid smell went up my nose and I almost got sick. Whole gagging, I hollered at my husband "Oh my do we have a gas leak? Did the dogs have an accident? Is it your feet smelling? What is that awful smell?"

A reply came from the dining room, "I'm eating cheese and crackers" I said

"What kind of cheese? It must be rotten.", "No" he replied, "it's Limburger." I had never smelled anything so bad and had never been around Limburger cheese but it smelled like dirty feet.

Earlier this summer I thought I smelled something on my front porch. I looked around, didn't see anything that would give off a bad odor. As the days went on, the smell got stronger and I thought maybe I had a dead coon or possum under the porch. One evening my sweetie, Denny came in and he said that he had been smelling something out there too.

After looking under, over and around everything, one day I was pulling out the

freezer a bit and I saw it!! I cautiously picked it up and saw it was a package of stinking hamburger. I called Denny and said, "I found the smelly thing on porch." I told him what it was and then after pitching it, I sprayed the porch with room spray. Ahhh smells better.

My daughter and her husband used to go foraging for Ginkgo fruits. They are fleshy, yellow fruits that emits an odor like rotten butter, vomit or poo. The seeds inside the stinky fruit are an Asian delicacy when cleaned and cooked. No I did not smell,



see or eat any.

I have always said that I wanted to be a candy tester to taste test all the candy. I would probably do more testing the candy than checking.

I have read before that if you have a good sniffer, you maybe could get a job doing nothing but smelling stuff. Things like perfumes, soaps, oils, pickles and anything that needs smelled prior to shipping.

I just wonder if you were employed as a nose smeller, what if your nose got plugged or it got broke? There are lots of things our trusty nose does for us. We smell, get air through our nose and breathe. There are lots of thing we can do to our noses some good, some not so good.

We blow our nose, wiggle our nose, get hit in the nose, and do a few gestures with our noses. Maybe no one is pleased with the looks of their nose, and lots get nose jobs and some just have and keep it. A large nose is the mark of a witty, courteous, affable, generous and liberal man.

Words for a nose are schnoz, beak, conk, sniffer

Your nose can remember over 50,000 scents. Wow! Thank God for Noses

What is the worst thing you have smelled? Do you like your nose and do you ever call it a Schnoz? Does your sniffer work.? Mine does cause I smell Chocolate. Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

**DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS \$1,000 GRANT TO FAIRVIEW SOFTBALL**



Pictured with the grant are (l-r) Katelyn Dumire - Fairview High School Varsity Head Softball coach; Lynn Speiser - Moose Lodge Vice President; and Rick Speiser - Moose Lodge Trustee.

Congratulations to Central Local Schools, Fairview Softball for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 this month. The Defiance Moose Lodge holds their donor advised fund, under the Defi-

ance Area Foundation umbrella.

This \$1,000 grant was given to help with the cost of the new softball field press box that the Fairview High School Softball team is fundraising for.

**SUBSURFACE TILE DRAINAGE ADVANTAGES**

Dr. Eileen Kladviko, agricultural engineer, Purdue University has conducted drainage research for 44 years. About 35 years ago, Purdue installed 4-inch plastic tile on hard to drain, clay resistant soils (Clermont somewhat similar to Paulding Clay). Clermont soil has a clay pan 2.5-3 feet deep which act like a bowl, filling up with water so the subsoil stays wet. This research started in the 1980's using 5, 10, 20-meter spacings (16, 33, 66 feet) compared to no tile drainage (over 40 m or 132 feet)

Dr. Kladviko data shows that drainage pays, even on tough clay soils with a claypan. Benefits include more timely spring field operations; improved yields; positive results from other conservation practices; and improved cover crop, hay, and small grains crops growing in the fall and over the winter.

Kladviko found that even during dry times, there were positive benefits subsurface tile drainage. The first 10 years, the rotation was corn after corn due to farmers interest in that practice with chisel plowing in the spring. If they chisel plowed in the fall, the soil would seal over and that negatively affected all the tile drainage systems. The next 10 years they switched to a corn-soybean rotation and went to no-till plus a winter cover crop. Here are the results:

The first 10 years (continuous corn, spring chisel plowing) on the zero drainage; spring planting was delayed 1-15 days compared to the narrowest tile spacing (5 meters, 16 feet). Aerial photos show a lighter color over and around tile lines indicating better drainage compared to dark coloring on the undrained soils. A big change was the difference in corn grain moisture which averaged 21% on the drained plots compared to 23% moisture on the undrained plots. This is a reduction of 2% in reduced energy cost to dry the corn down, averaged over 10 years. In some years, they had to

replant 2-3X to get a stand on the undrained plots. The corn did not emerge or the stand was too spotty to keep. They got a stand a least 30 days later one year. Early planting has a significant effect on crop yield, especially when stands are good. Dr. Kladviko estimates the cost of replanting is \$95 for labor, machinery costs, fuel/oil plus about another \$100 for high quality hybrid seed.

The biggest change was in improved crop yields, especially when they switched to no-till and cover crops after 10 years. The no-till and cover crops improved the soil structure on the clay soils with a claypan so that the subsurface tile worked better. Instead of having to wait for 6 to 8 inches of soil to dry out on the conventional chisel plowed soil, now they had to wait for only the top 1-2 inches to dry out. Now they can plant all the drained plots on the same day but still have to wait to plant later on the undrained plots. The undrained soil was consistently in the bottom on yield or tied with the bottom, all ten years, after no-till and cover crops were initiated.

Over the course of the research (1984-2017), the 5, 10, 20 meter (16, 33, 66 feet) spacing averaged in the mid-160 bushel/acre range with a 24, 19, 18-bushel yield advantage over the undrained cropland (144 bushel). In some years like 2007 and 2011, there was almost no advantage, but in some wet years (2015) the advantage was 50+ bushel/acre over undrained plots, no subsurface tile. On average, based on average corn prices for that time period, there was a \$60 per acre economic advantage per acre for subsurface tile drainage.

Dr. Kladviko also noticed other positive results to tile drainage. On average, farmers expect about a 1.9% improvement per year in corn yields due to genetics. The tile drained plots allowed this improvement but the undrained plots did not see any improvement in crop yields over time.

The first 10 years, the improvement in crop yields were not as good. At first, they thought that that decade was drier and the last 10 years were wetter. That was not

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

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

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

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**By: Mark Holtsberry**

Herbert William Stoller was born June 20, 1896, in Fairbury, Illinois. He was the son of John Albert Stoller, born September 15, 1863, in Bern, Switzerland, and Louise M. (Mangold) Stoller, born December 6, 1870, in France. The couple was married in 1892.

By 1900, John and Louise had four children: Leona, born in July 1894; Herbert, born in 1896; Michael, born in 1898; and Daniel, born in 1899. At that time, the family was living on Ash Street in Indian Grove, Livingston County, Illinois, where John was engaged in the hardware business.

By 1910, the Stoller family had moved to Waldo, Illinois. John had taken up farming, and the family had grown. Carl was born in 1900, John in 1901, Juliet in 1903, Ezra in 1905, Mary in 1907, and Robert in 1910.

Herbert quit school after completing the fifth grade. It is likely he was helping his father in the fields, as all of the children probably contributed to the family farm.

Sometime after 1910, the Stoller family moved to Paulding County, Ohio, where John continued farming. On June 5,

1918, Herbert registered for the World War I draft in Paulding. He was described as tall, of slender build, single, and working for his father. On September 5, 1918, Herbert was drafted into the National Army out of Paulding and assigned to the 32nd Company, 8th Battalion, 158th Depot Brigade for training.

Herbert served until September 26, 1918, when he was transferred to the Conscientious Objectors Detachment Camp at Camp Sherman, Ohio. He served with this unit until December 12, 1918, after which he was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps at Camp Sherman. Herbert was honorably discharged on May 16, 1919.

Following his military service, Herbert returned home. His mother, Louise, passed away on February 22, 1920, and was buried in the Latty Apostolic Cemetery outside Latty, Ohio. The Stoller family continued farming and living in Jackson Township.

On January 9, 1921, while still living at home, Herbert married Leah Laukauf, who was born March 14, 1897, in Tremont, Tazewell County, Illinois. Together they became the parents of Nelson, born in 1922; Velma, born in 1923; Edwin, born in 1924, who passed away at birth; Justus, born in 1926; Ernest, born in 1927; and Pauline, born in 1929.

By 1930, the family was living outside Paulding on Dewitt Pike, where they continued farming. Leah later gave birth to a son, Willis, in 1932, and a daughter, Ruth, in 1936.

By 1940, the Stoller family was living in the Paulding area, and Herbert continued to farm. On January 7, 1942, Herbert passed away unexpectedly. He was laid to rest in the Latty Apostolic Cemetery outside Latty, Ohio.]

... Until Next Time!

true, the precipitation trends were quite similar. Then they looked at the change in tillage and cover crop installation. They found that the soil had more soil organic matter, the soil structure was better, and the drainage improved. Tile drainage allowed other conservation practices to work better. Also cover crop biomass increased 4X and fall

and winter planted and crops grew better with improved drainage. The average change in crop yields was probably closer to 30 bushel per acre on the tile drainage due to aid from no-till and cover crops to improved sustained drainage.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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# ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL

## Home of the Archers

### February 2026

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The second semester of the 2025-26 school year is in full swing and with many cold and snowy days before us, I would like to remind parents to have students dress warm when waiting for the bus or in preparation for the trip to school. Student drivers should be reminded that road conditions change throughout the day and caution should always be used when driving in the winter. The decision to delay or cancel school is always difficult, but the determining factor will always be the safety of our students. Appreciation goes out to our bus drivers for their difficult job of safely transporting our students to and from school each day. A reminder that delays and closings are sent out by Instant Alert and school app along with a message on various television and radio stations.

As of the writing of this newsletter, our delays and closings have resulted in 54.4 calamity hours. A calamity school day is equivalent to 6.4 hours. Board policy allows for up to 55 calamity hours prior to making up school hours. If needed, our first make-up day will take place Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Otherwise, make-up days will take place at the end of the current school calendar year.

A great way to beat the winter blahs is to view our winter sporting events in person or if the event takes place in the main gym, you can view it on your computer. The events are viewable on your computer by going to Youtube.com and typing Antwerp Athletics in the Search Bar. A specially designed camera has been positioned in the main gym to provide this service. Radio station 102.7 FM will also live-stream and provide broadcasters for all Antwerp home Varsity boys' and girls' basketball games. Visit [www.my1027.org](http://www.my1027.org) to view the games.

While attending events in the school building, community members are also encouraged to observe our Academic Hall of Honor located along the north wall of the connector hallway from the Rotunda to the Auditoria/Gymnasium hallway. The hallway features large display boards that recognize recent Valedictorians, Salutatorians, students scoring (29) or higher on their ACT, and members of our National Honor Society.

Our school district is very proud to be named by **The Education Magazine** as one of "The 10 Most Admired School Districts for 2026". Information regarding the magazine article can be found on our website and social media.

Looking ahead a couple of months, our musical department plans to present a spring musical program entitled, "The Addams Family". The musical is under the direction of Cord Ehrhart and will take place Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, and Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

We also have our Family Literacy Night scheduled for Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Specific events for the evening include literacy activities, a Book Fair, food, prizes, and educational based games.

Another major event to consider attending this spring is the annual Arts Festival. The festival is currently scheduled to take place Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

#### MS. ARNOLD - HS/MS

As a reminder, our midterm date for the third grading period is February 6<sup>th</sup> with an end date of March 13<sup>th</sup>. We encourage you to have conversations with your students about their academic performance. Parents/guardians are able to check the online Progressbook at any time to monitor grades. If you need help accessing this feature, please contact the middle school/high school office.

Summer School will begin the week following the last day of school and run for 10 school days. This will take place in person once again this summer. High school students who fail at least one semester of a class will be required to attend Summer School for credit remediation. Middle school students who fail a course for the entire year will also be required to attend. More details will be shared as we get closer to May.

The ACT testing date for all interested juniors will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>, and Annual Spring State Testing will take place on: ELA - April 15-16, Math - April 22-23, Social Studies/Science - April 29-30. Please try to avoid appointments during the morning on these days.

March is a very busy month with several notable events: Hoops for Heart on March 11<sup>th</sup>, *The Addams Family Musical* March 20, 21, and 22, the Senior Trip to New York City March 26-30, and our spring athletics beginning near the end of the month.

Lastly, April continues with a high school trip to Spain led by Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lola Revuelta, for an unforgettable cultural experience from April 2-9. In addition, we look ahead to the annual Arts Festival on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to come support the Arts this spring with the many opportunities to see how talented our students are and support their activities.

~ Ms. Jessie Arnold, MS/HS Principal

#### HS/MS GUIDANCE NEWS

The most recent scholarship list has many local scholarships available. A complete list of local scholarships can be found on our website at <https://sites.google.com/apps.aw.noacsc.org/antwerpmsguidance/home> and in Mrs. Hammer's google classroom. These sites are updated frequently.

Sophomores will be taking the ASVAB test this month. Students ASVAB results give them access to planning tools they can use for their career project. Visit <https://www.asvabprogram.com/> for more information.

The ACT will be given to juniors on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared with students in Mrs. Hammer's google classroom.

Scheduling for the 2026-2027 school year will finish up this month. Please talk with your student about making the best course choices. All scheduling information will be available on the school's website. Please contact Mrs. Hammer with scheduling questions. Scheduling forms are due to the guidance office by Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### MR. BILLMAN - ELEMENTARY

**DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH**  
A huge congratulations to our elementary students who earned Student of the Month for the month of December.

**Kindergarten/Young 5's:** Savannah Yanez, Kainen Bok, Gannon Harris & Summer Neace

**1st Grade:** Theo Koenn & Tristen Ross

**2nd Grade:** Rose Larson, Amelia Zuber & Malachi Forbes

**3rd Grade:** Sawyer Parisot, Rowan Morrow & Deana Miller

**4th Grade:** Sydnie Keeler & Deacon Miller

**5th Grade:** Addison Griffiths, Bristol Kauser & Roman Laker

#### RECESS

Temperatures during this time of year will fluctuate from time to time. We plan to go outside as much as possible during this timeframe, so please make sure students are bringing coats, hats, and gloves for recess.

#### FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

We are excited to announce Family Literacy Night will take place on Thursday, March 12. Mark your calendars so you don't miss this event!

#### END OF THIRD QUARTER

Please mark your calendars: the third academic quarter concludes on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS & DATES

- Preschool Screenings will be held March 27, April 8 & April 9.
- Kindergarten Registration dates will be set in the coming weeks, so be on the lookout for those dates.
- State Testing will begin in April

~ Mr. Doug Billman, Elementary Principal

#### ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

This month in elementary guidance, kindergarten learned about using kind words. They compared cotton (kind words) to sandpaper (unkind words).

First graders learned about feelings by listening to the story, *Glad Monster, Sad Monster*, and made their own feelings monster.

Second graders talked about worry and stress, followed by learning different strategies they can use to cope with these things.

Third graders talked about growth mindset and what that means in preparation for state testing.

Like the second grade classes, the fourth grade classes also learned different ways to handle and deal with stress and all the worry that comes along with that.

Fifth grade students learned about the dangers of internet safety.

As always, Mrs. Lichty is available to meet with students individually. Please contact her at 419-258-5421, extension 2204, with any concerns about your child.

#### ATHLETIC CALENDAR

##### BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Feb 6 6:00 vs. Ayersville  
Feb 7 6:00 @ Edon  
Feb 13 6:00 @ Hicksville  
Feb 14 6:00 @ Kalida

##### BOYS JUNIOR HIGH BASKETBALL

Feb 3 5:00 vs. Continental  
Feb 5 5:00 vs. Crestview  
Feb 7 TBA 7th @FV & 8th @WT  
Feb 9 TBA 7th @FV & 8th @WT  
Feb 10 TBA 7th GMC Finals @FV  
Feb 14 TBA 7th GMC Finals @WT

##### GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Feb 5 6:00 @ Ayersville

##### HIGH SCHOOL BOYS WRESTLING

Feb 7 9:30 @ Ada Invite  
Feb 12 6:00 @ Paulding  
Feb 21 9:30 @ Ayersville

##### HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS WRESTLING

Feb 1 10:00 @ Gibsonburg

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 13 **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Break  
Feb 16 **NO SCHOOL** - Presidents Day  
Feb 17 Board of Education Meeting  
Feb 25 **2-Hour Delay** - Inservice  
Mar 12 Family Literacy Night  
Mar 13 End of 3rd Quarter  
Mar 18 **2-Hour Delay** - Inservice  
Mar 20-22 Spring Musical  
Mar 27 Preschool Screenings  
Apr 3-7 **NO SCHOOL** - Easter Break  
Apr 8-9 Preschool Screenings

#### PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Antwerp Local Schools will offer Preschool Screenings on Friday, March 27 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Screenings will also be held on Wednesday, April 8 and Thursday, April 9 from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Screenings are available for children residing in Antwerp School District and are ages 3-5 years. To request an appointment, you can follow this link <https://sites.google.com/apps.aw.noacsc.org/antwerplocalpreschool/preschool-screening?authuser=0>. Once you complete the form, Mrs. Carnes will reach out to you to confirm your appointment time.

NOTE: There will be NO classes for current preschool students on April 8-9 following Easter Break in order to accommodate preschool screenings.

#### CAFETERIA MENU

Feb 2 Mac and cheese, roll, california blend, orange smiles, milk  
Feb 3 Taco, refried beans, strawberries, milk  
Feb 4 BBQ rib on bun, baked beans, applesauce, milk  
Feb 5 Boneless wings, french fries, mixed fruit, milk  
Feb 6 Pizza, broccoli/cauliflower, applesauce, milk  
Feb 9 Chili cheese dog, tater tots, pears, milk

**Our menus are subject to change without notice.**

*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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 PO Box 1008  
 Antwerp, OH 45813

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

I see the "good" self proclaimed Christians from Hicksville and Paulding are still spreading God's love in to the new year. Such "good" Christians.

I'm not a follower of Christ, but what I do know he didn't preach arrogance, hate and vitriol.

—Kurtis Lothamer  
 Fort Wayne, IN

**LETTER TO THE LETTER**

**Atheism is the Absence of a Position**

"My position is that I do not have a position unlike your position which you hold. You believe the universe operates by certain rules and laws and you act accordingly. I don't believe in the rules and laws of your position, but I still operate in my day-to-day by certain rules and laws based on my position - a position which is an explicit denial of your position and mostly defined as such. Surely you can see that my position which hinges solely on the negation of positive positions is superior to yours, which again, my position hinges its existence on."

Imagine living your life thinking that this is the pinnacle of human reasoning. To a point, the negation of a position is not really a position, but not in the way which the atheist thinks it. Merely it means their position, as said in the ridiculing statement above, hinges its very existence on denying all other positions. That very definition therefore makes it a position, albeit a very weak one. Atheists are much like the pagans of antiquity in that they conceive the Christian God (they don't actually know about other religions (paradigms) as a flawed human person, however immortal and with supernatural abilities. This is a flawed premise and is addressed in St. Athanasius' Against the Heathen and in Plato's writings when he discusses the difference between the gods and the One, namely the

Timaeus. The atheist, due to their overconfidence, blow past this crucial understanding.

In Christianity God is God is existence and yet He is beyond existence. God is personal, hence the use of masculine pronouns. God is the source of all things, but He is not exhausted as just that. Here we see the two ways of describing God: apophatic and cataphatic. To understand more of this read: The Essence/Energy Distinction by David Bradshaw and The Ambiguum by St. Maximos the Confessor. When we describe God's essence we can only do so apophatically, and when we describe His energies we do so cataphatically. This solves two issues for the atheist. Firstly, it ends the problem of the One and the Many that persists in secular philosophy. Secondly, it narrows down the heretical sects of Christianity to the one true Church: the Orthodox Church, as it is the only Church that has the essence/energy distinction.

Only with this understanding of God can we truly know about the world. What I mean is God gives assurance in objective truth, morality, and knowledge. Atheists often say that Christians have a blind faith in a way to call Christians stupid when so-called science seems to disprove Christianity. There are many problems here. Firstly, it's the bald assertion of the atheist paradigm into science. Second is the misunderstanding of faith. Faith is the hope in God that He will remember His creation always. Faith is also our relationship with God through personhood—personhood is the proportional that allows the infinite to be known of by the finite. In the greatest sense of personhood we have Christ, who assumed human nature and married it with the divine nature, which is the greatest accomplishment that no other religion has and the greatest mystery that no one can fully comprehend.

Back to the topic at hand: as Christians, we know there are laws about the function of the universe, and more importantly there are laws of logic above them. Most important is the law of identity. The defining feature of created things is mutability, but if all created things were solely mutable then identity is merely arbitrary at any point in time. In other words, there can be no categories, only social constructs (a

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fancy way of saying delusion). That really is the crux of faith: God is Who He says He is. If He is Who He says He is, then all laws about the universe are coherent and justified logically—therefore entailing all moral law in Christianity is coherent and justified logically.

—Joel Steiner,  
 Antwerp, OH

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Canadian Cabins**

In the early 1960's my dad attended a convention where the featured speaker was a man named Tennyson Guyer. My dad ended up buying one of Mr. Guyer's 33 1/3 LPs. I don't believe my dad ever did listen to it, but I did. The recording was entitled "The Miracle Called America." On this LP, Mr. Guyer tells many humors and relative stories. Many of these stories I will share with you as time goes by.

The first message I will share with you concerns our neighbors to the north, Canada. According to Mr. Guyer, the Canadian government has built log cabins for hikers to use on many of Canada's wilderness trails. It seems the government supplies them, maintains them, encourages hikers to use them without any cost. Mr. Guyer's story did say that in each of these cabins there is a large sign that reads "LEAVE A LARGER STACK OF WOOD THAN YOU FOUND." Read that again! How about you? Do you leave a larger stack in your job? What about your marriage? What if everybody left a larger stack in everything they did? I am a 30yr. Retired teacher. I wasn't the best, but I feel I worked very hard to be better. I demanded the best from all my students. I feel I was tough but fair. I expected each of them to work as hard as I did. My dad often said that if anyone trust you to give you a job, then you give them no less than 100%.

The government owes you nothing. Learn to work for the things you need and want.

ASK NOT - Pres. JFK  
 —Dave Laukhuf  
 Paulding, OH

**LOCAL BUSINESS OWNERS: DON'T OVERLOOK RETIREMENT PLANS**

If you're a local business owner, you're juggling many priorities: growing revenue, managing expenses, supporting your team and planning for your own future. What if one tool could help with all these goals?

A workplace retirement plan might be that solution and can, directly or indirectly, offer benefits that extend beyond simple savings.

Double the tax advantages. Starting a retirement plan can deliver immediate tax advantages. For the business, employer contributions are tax-deductible. And as a participant in your company plan, your pretax salary deferrals are excluded from income taxes; your investments within the plan are tax-deferred until distributed. Many plans now offer Roth options that allow tax-free withdrawals in retirement.

Local businesses may also qualify for federal tax credits that help offset startup costs, employee education expenses and plan administration fees. Additional credits may be available for auto-enrollment features and employer contributions made during the plan's first five years.

A competitive edge in hiring. In today's labor market, offering a retirement plan can differentiate your business from competitors and help improve employee retention.

Many plans also provide access to financial education tools and resources, helping your employees make informed decisions about saving, investing and planning for retirement. This support can lead to greater employee satisfaction and productivity, contributing to a positive work environment for your business.

More flexible than state-sponsored options. If you live in a state requiring an employee retirement program, you might be considering a state-sponsored plan. While these programs can provide a starting point, they typically offer fewer investment options, lower contribution limits and limited design flexibility.

Establishing your own workplace retirement plan lets you customize features for

your business needs to control administrative costs, set contribution limits and offer employees a wide range of investment options. This added control in plan design can lead to better outcomes for your business and your employees.

Reducing a hidden risk in your own retirement planning. Business owners often have as much as 80% of their net worth tied up in their businesses, according to the Exit Planning Institute. While that demonstrates commitment to success, it also creates significant financial risk to the owner.

Relying solely on a future business sale to fund your retirement can be precarious. Market shifts, timing challenges or limited buyer interest could derail those plans. By building personal assets through your employer-sponsored retirement plan, you can gain financial flexibility and reduce the risk of having your retirement lifestyle depend entirely on one event.

Getting started. With various retirement plan options available, determining which one fits your business best can feel overwhelming.

A qualified financial advisor can help you navigate these decisions, explaining the trade-offs between different plan types and identifying which option best suits your unique situation. They can also help you understand eligibility requirements and ensure the plan you choose aligns with your business goals and personal financial objectives.

Starting a workplace retirement plan represents an investment in your future, your employees and the long-term success of your business.

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

*Edward Jones, Member SIPC*

**READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS**

**OHIO LOCATIONS**

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,  
**Bryan:** 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart  
**Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House  
**Continental:** ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy  
**Defiance:** Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch  
**Edgerton:** USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)  
**Grover Hill:** N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General  
**Hicksville:** 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 Exchange, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp General 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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# ETTER CLAIMS TITLE AS PAULDING PLACES SIXTH AT VAN BUREN INVITATIONAL



Etter takes 1st in his division at Van Buren.

The Paulding boys varsity wrestling team tested itself against top-tier competition on Friday, January 24, competing in the Van Buren Invitational, a loaded tournament that featured 33 teams and numerous state-ranked wrestlers. Despite the depth of the field, the Panthers turned in a strong showing, placing five wrestlers and finishing

sixth overall as a team.

Leading the way for Paulding was Thor Stroker Etter, who battled through his bracket to earn a first-place finish in his division. Stroker's championship run capped a standout day for the Panthers and highlighted Paulding's ability to compete with some of the best programs in the region.

Landon Dasher followed with a third-place finish after navigating a tough bracket to reach the podium, while Nico Moreno added a fourth-place result with a deep run in his weight class. Avery Cooper secured a fifth-place finish, and Trenton Bail rounded out Paulding's placers by taking sixth.

basketball victory Friday night, January 24, on its home floor.

The two teams traded momentum throughout the night. Paulding took a slim 14-11 lead after the first quarter before Montpelier responded with a 14-point second quarter. The Panthers carried a narrow 29-25 advantage into halftime following a 15-14 edge in the second period.

Paulding delivered its strongest stretch after the break, scoring 19 points in the third quarter to extend the lead. Montpelier stayed within striking distance behind steady perimeter shooting and trips to the free-throw line, but the Panthers entered the fourth quarter up 48-41. Montpelier made one final push in the closing minutes, outscoring Paulding 15-11 in the fourth, but the Panthers were able to close the win at the line and with key defensive stops.

Tyson Manz led Paulding with 17 points. Xavier Kuckuck also finished with 17 points, including three three-pointers, while Blake Rhonehouse added 16 points to give the Panthers a trio of double-figure scorers. Grady Barton chipped in four points, and Gannon Parrett added three and Jalen Manz scored two.

Montpelier was paced by C.J. Fidler, who poured in 22 points and went 1-for-2 at the free-throw line. Wesley Hartsock added 12 points, while Kenneth Smeltzer scored nine. Kenneth Smetzer chipped in nine, Gavyn Bass contributed six points, Hayden Sharps had four, and Malachi Smeltzer finished with three.

## PATRICK HENRY PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT ANTWERP

Patrick Henry used a strong start and a decisive second half to earn a 67-55 boys basketball win over Antwerp on Friday night, January 24, at Antwerp.

The Patriots jumped out quickly, holding Antwerp to just two points in the opening quarter while building a 16-2 advantage. Antwerp responded in the second quarter, finding its offensive rhythm and outscoring Patrick Henry 19-14 to cut the deficit to 30-21 at halftime.

Patrick Henry retained control coming out of the locker room, scoring 20 points in the third quarter to stretch the lead. Antwerp continued to battle, but the Patriots maintained separation and closed the game with a 17-point fourth quarter to secure the win.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp with a game-high 29 points, going 6-for-7 at the free-throw line and accounting for more than half of the Archers' scoring. Hampton Rogge added eight points, while Weston Rhonehouse and Brayden Fuller each finished with eight. Lincoln Lucas rounded out the Antwerp scoring with two points.

Patrick Henry was led by Mack Hieber, who scored 24 points on 10 field goals and added four free throws. Reid Creager finished with 13 points, while Tristen Rosebrook chipped in 12. Brooks Panches added eight points, with Brian Scherdt and Calvin Schroeder each scoring three and Kiefer Holloway finishing with four.

(Continued on Page 7)

# PANTHERS PULL AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT EDGERTON 62-51 AT THE PALACE



Paulding's Jalen Manz is quick! In and out of the key, getting back in and scores for the Panthers! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

Paulding used a strong second half and balanced scoring to fend off Edgerton, earning a 62-51 Green Meadows Conference boys basketball win Friday night, January 23, at The Palace in Paulding.

The Panthers jumped out early, outscoring Edgerton 19-11 in the opening quarter behind steady offensive execution and pressure defense. Edgerton responded in the second quarter, tightening the gap with a 14-9 advantage to pull within 28-25 at halftime.

Paulding regained control coming out of the locker room. The Panthers posted a 17-point third quarter, matching Edgerton basket for basket early before creating separation late in the period to take a 45-39 lead. Paulding sealed the win in the fourth quarter with another 17-point effort,

holding Edgerton to 12 while controlling the tempo down the stretch.

Blake Rhonehouse led all scorers for Paulding with 18 points, doing most of his damage at the free-throw line, where he went 6-for-8. Tyson Manz followed with 13 points, while Jalen Manz added 10 points. Grady Barton chipped in eight points, Xander Kuckuck scored six, Gannon Parrett added five, and Max Daeger finished with two as the Panthers spread the scoring load.

Edgerton was paced by Brady Everetts with 14 points. Maddox Baker scored 12, while Mason Elden and Kellen Sanchez each finished with 10. Noah Weaver rounded out the Bulldogs' scoring with five points.

# ARCHERS GAIN EXPERIENCE AT CLYDE WRESTLING INVITATIONAL



Zac Salas earned the 2nd place spot on the podium at the Clyde Invitational on Saturday, January 24th.

The Antwerp High School wrestling team continued its steady progress on Friday, January 24, competing in the Clyde Wrestling Invitational against a strong field of opponents. While the Archers did not come away with a team title, the day provided valuable mat time and signs of improvement as the season moves forward.

Zac Salas led the way for Antwerp with a second-place finish, posting a 3-1 record on the day and recording one pin

in his run to the championship match. Keegan Gray-Wyckoff also reached the podium, earning a sixth-place finish after going 3-2 with two pins, showcasing his ability to finish matches.

Braxton Peters finished 1-2 with one pin, while Griffin Kosch added a 1-2 record of his own. Landon Orozco rounded out Antwerp's lineup, gaining experience against tough competition despite an 0-2 showing.

Antwerp coaches noted the

team's continued development, emphasizing that each tournament provides another opportunity to grow. With wrestlers improving match by match.

## LOCAL STUDENT NAMED TO THE DEAN'S LIST AT COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Elijah Rickard of Payne, OH has been named to the 2025 Autumn Semester Dean's List at Columbus State Community College. To be named to the Dean's List, a student must achieve a grade point average (GPA) of 3.5 or higher and be enrolled for six or more credit hours.

## PAULDING EDGES MONTPELIER

Paulding held off a late charge from Montpelier to secure a hard-fought 59-56 boys

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# PAULDING DOMINATES LADY ACES



Paulding junior Estie Pease gets back to back layup points in the third quarter on turnovers she picked up from the Aces. More pictures at engagingexposures.com



Aces' sophomore Jocelyn Baldwin is fouled on her layup attempt, ultimately, scoring two points at the line. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

Paulding Lady Panthers Thursday January 29<sup>th</sup>.  
 hosted the Hicksville Lady Paulding kept a home win,  
 Aces on The Palace court on 55-39.

**WAYNE TRACE PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT ANTWERP**



Senior Raeley Franklin sneaks in from the south side of the court, putting up the attempt to score for the Archers! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

The Wayne Trace girls basketball team used a strong second quarter and a balanced scoring effort to earn a 41-23 road win over Antwerp on Wednesday, January 29.



Wayne Trace's Kinlee Miller, Freshman, gets the rebound and is back in the heart of the battle as she puts up a shot and scores for the Raiders. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

Wayne Trace led 10-7 after one quarter, stretched the margin to 26-12 by halftime, and never allowed Antwerp to mount a sustained comeback in the second half.

Senior Lexi Moore led all scorers with 16 points for Wayne Trace, adding seven rebounds, four steals, and two assists in an all-around performance. Amber Stoller followed with 11 points and three assists, while Careen Winans chipped in nine points along with six steals and three assists. Wayne Trace's defense set the tone, forcing turnovers and holding Antwerp to just three points in the fourth quarter to seal the win.

(Continued from Page 6)

Antwerp fell to 3-13 on the season, while Patrick Henry improved to 12-3 overall. In the junior varsity contest, Patrick Henry defeated Antwerp 62-39.

**OHIO STATE LIMA WELCOMES THE FALSE CITY TO FARMER FAMILY GALLERY**

Printmaker John O'Donnell will be at Ohio State Lima for the opening of his show *The False City at the Farmer Family Gallery* from 4:00-6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 5, 2026. *The False City* is part of a long-term printmaking project made in response to the legacy of a 16th-century print series known as *The Speculum Romanae Magnificentiae* (Mirror of Roman Magnificence), a portfolio of etched and engraved prints depicting the monuments and ruins of ancient Rome.

The opening, book signing and exhibition are free and open to the public. It will be open February 5 - March 12. The gallery is located in Reed Hall. Regular gallery hours are 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Monday-Thursday, with further visitation by appointment. Contact [breidenbach.44@osu.edu](mailto:breidenbach.44@osu.edu).

This project builds on the existing Renaissance project by creating copper plate etchings of archaeological sites. Each print reflects an attempt

**PATRIOTS PULL AWAY LATE TO TOP WOODLAN IN RIVALRY CLASH**



Woodlan's Ashtin Jacquay picks up the turnover twice within a short period and scores for the Warriors both times! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

WOODBURN, Ind. — The Heritage Patriots used a strong second half to pull away from Woodlan on Friday night, handing the Warriors a 52-40 loss in a rivalry matchup on January 23 at Woodlan High School.

The game was tight early, with both teams trading baskets through the opening quarter. Heritage held a slim 9-8 edge after one, while Woodlan stayed within striking distance at halftime, evening the score at 23-23 that featured balanced scoring and solid defensive play on both sides.

Heritage began to create separation coming out of the locker room, outscoring Woodlan 16-7 in the third quarter to extend the lead to 39-30. The Patriots continued to apply pressure in the fourth, knocking down key

shots and converting at the free-throw line to secure the win.

For Woodlan, Keaton Delagrangue led the way with 14 points, providing a consistent inside presence and accounting for much of the Warriors' offense. Ashtin Jacquay added eight points, while Nathaniel Peters chipped in five. Woodlan also received scoring contributions from Camden Brooks (seven points), Collin Klepper (three), and Cooper Smith (two).

Heritage was led by a balanced scoring effort, with L. Cassel scoring a team-high 13 points. T. Brown followed with 12, while K. Galentine added another 12. L. Taylor contributed eight points, N. Bowers finished with three, and N. Savier with two to round out the Patriots' scoring.

of Connecticut. His research centers on the history of printmaking, architectural representation, and the ways images construct cultural memory. Through studio practice and archival research, he investigates the compression of time, myth and place within printed form. His projects bridge historical print technologies and contempo-

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# THE LEFT TURN



Lucas Oil Late Model Series made key changes recently. Photo Credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

Most of the country has been struggling with weather and bitter cold but the 2026 racing season has started in the southern states. Arizona, Georgia and Florida race-tracks are opening for racing, test and tune or just getting cars dialed in and making pre-season adjustments.

The Lucas Oil Dirt Late Model Series presented by FloRacing announced this week Wieland is the title sponsor of the Winter Nationals February 19-21 at All-Tech Raceway in Lake City, Florida. The series then moves to Ocala Speedway in Ocala, Florida, where competitors will take part in five consecutive nights of racing from February 24-28. The Winter Nationals will conclude at Golden Isles Speedway in Brunswick, Georgia, with four nights of racing slated for March 4-7.

Wieland, a long-standing supporter of grassroots and professional racing, is widely recognized for its industry-leading aluminum products and manufacturing expertise. Their involvement as title sponsor further strengthens the Winter Nationals' status as

a marquee event while reinforcing Wieland's dedication to motorsports and the racing community.

Last year's series had a close battle in points all season. The champion Devin Moran finished with 9175 total points but in striking distance you had three of the best Rickey Thornton Jr., Jonathan Davenport, and Hudson O'Neal. Donald McIntosh was the Rookie of the year and finished 10th in points.

The off-season for the Lucas Oil Late Model Series has been busy. On December 11th, FloSports took over the ownership of the series. FloSports continues to invest in and operate key motor sports properties and high-value sports IP. As part of the sale, Lucas Oil Products, Inc. will enter into a multi-year exclusive title sponsorship agreement with FloSports for LOLMDS, maintaining a legacy of support for the championship and its community of fans, teams, and drivers for years to come.

It was also announced After three seasons using a play-off-style points system, the Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series presented by FloRacing is

returning to a traditional season-long points system for 2026, while adding more than a quarter-million dollar lucrative late-season bonuses. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

## NORTHWEST STATE VAN WERT CAMPUS TO HOST "VISIT DAY"

The Northwest State Community College Van Wert Campus will be hosting a new student "Visit Day," to be held on the new campus site at 520 E. Sycamore St. on Wednesday, February 11 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Visit Day is a student-focused event hosted by NSCC Learner Services offices (admissions, advising, financial aid, etc.). The main focus is to welcome prospective learners to campus and assist them in completing important steps. On February 11, prospective learners can visit campus and apply, as well as complete important steps like orientation, start their FASFA, tour the building and more! Academic advisors will also be on hand to help answer questions about courses.

Stay tuned to NSCC Van Wert social media ("Northwest State Community College- Van Wert Campus" on Facebook, and "NSCCVanWertCampus" on Instagram) for up to date information about this event, as well as all other campus activity. NSCC Van Wert is also available any time online at NorthwestState.edu/VanWert or by calling 419-267-1399.

## STATE PATROL INVESTIGATING SERIOUS INJURY CRASH ON US-127

The Ohio State Highway Patrol's Defiance Post is investigating a two-vehicle crash that occurred at approximately 8:56 P.M. on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

The crash occurred at the intersection of US-127 and US-6 in Williams County. The northbound lanes of US-127 were closed for nearly three hours.

A 2018 Nissan Altima was being driven by James M. Hays, age 52, of Pioneer, Ohio. A 2005 Pontiac Vibe was being driven by Clint P. Krill, age 46, of Ney, Ohio. Mr. Hays was southbound on US-127 and failed to yield when making a left turn. Mr. Krill was northbound on US-127 and struck Mr. Hays' vehicle. Both Mr. Hays and Mr. Krill sustained serious injuries. Jamie L. Nash, age 39, of Stryker, Ohio was a front seat passen-

# FAIRVIEW PULLS AWAY LATE TO DOWN ANTWERP 54-45 AT THE RANGE



Right after McMichael scores the Apaches are back on their side of the court. Sophomore Hayden Bok returns the favor for a good 3-point basket. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

Fairview used a strong second half to pull away from Antwerp and secure a 54-45 Green Meadows Conference boys basketball win Friday night, January 23, at The Range.

Antwerp held a slim edge after the first quarter, leading 13-11, and the two teams were neck and neck at 26-27 at halftime with Antwerp carrying the upperhand. The Apaches took control coming out of the locker room, outscoring Antwerp 16-9 in the third quarter to build separation, then closed the game with a 13-9 advantage in the fourth to seal the win.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp with 19 points, knocking down five field goals and three 3-pointers, while Weston Rhonehouse added eight points and Hampton Rogge chipped in seven. Lincoln Lucas finished with five points, Brayden Fuller scored three, Noah Lucas had two, and Michael Rohrs added one as the Archers dropped to 3-12 overall and 0-4 in GMC play after this match up.

Fairview placed two players in double figures, led by Levi Panico with 12 points and Hayden Bok with 11. Logan Olinger added seven points, while Noah Shingler and Logan Mosier



Zaine McMichael is heavily guarded by freshman Gavin Meade and still sinks this 3-point basket! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

each finished with six. Fairview improved to 9-5 overall and 3-1 in the conference after this game. In the

junior varsity contest, Fairview defeated Antwerp 47-35.

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ger in Mr. Hays' vehicle and also sustained serious injury. All three were transported by Williams County EMS to Parkview Hospital in Bryan, Ohio. Mr. Krill and Ms. Nash were transported by air once at Parkview Hospital to hospitals in Toledo, Ohio.

The Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by Williams County Sheriff's Office, Bryan Fire Department, Williams County EMS and John's Towing and Repair.

The crash remains under investigation. Alcohol is suspected to be a factor in the crash.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Mary A. McVicker of Payne, Ohio, had a marijuana possession charge dismissed with all court costs waived. However, in a separate case, she pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence (OVI). She received a fine of \$375, was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 177 days suspended, and her license was suspended from September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2024. Additional charges in

the case—driving under financial responsibility suspension, use of the wrong license plate and possession of marijuana—were dismissed

**Bobbie J. Dix** of Paulding was found guilty of violating the local junk ordinance. She was ordered to pay court costs totaling \$97, with the \$100 fine suspended.

**Ruthann Swary**, also of

Paulding, faced a similar charge under the junk ordinance. She pled guilty and received the same disposition—\$97 in court costs with the fine suspended.

**Jon Allen** of Grover Hill had two separate junk ordinance violations—one under section 93.41 and the other under 95.06. Both charges were dismissed by the village,

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**MERCY HEALTH-DEFIANCE RECEIVES \$1,500 DAF GRANT FOR DEFIANCE PATHWAYS HUB**



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Kamaria Wilson - Mercy Health Community Health Manager and Laurie McCann - DAF Board of Trustees member.

Mercy Health - Defiance has recently received a \$1,500 grant for their Defiance Pathways Hub. This grant will cover the

cost of a laptop and cell phone for the program. Congratulations on this grant from our DAF Community Fund!

and court costs were waived.

**Michael W. Garberson** of Grover Hill was convicted on two counts of junk ordinance violations at his East Jackson Street residence. He was ordered to pay \$97 in court costs, with the \$100 fine suspended.

**Cheyenne N. Rios** of Paulding was found guilty of telecommunications harassment. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all of which were suspended, and ordered to pay court costs of \$109. Additionally, she was instructed to maintain general good behavior and to have no contact with the victim.

**Douglas W. Brown** of Columbia City, Indiana, was found guilty of criminal trespassing. He was fined \$250 and sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended. He is required to pay all fines and costs, maintain good behavior, and have no contact with the victim or property.

**Chase Schaefer** of Payne, Ohio, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while under the influence. He was fined \$565 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended.

His license was suspended from February 1, 2026, to February 1, 2027. He may attend a driver intervention program in lieu of three days in jail. A separate charge of failure to control was dismissed.

**Doniell L. Bernard** of Roanoke, Indiana, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while under the influence. She was fined \$565 and sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended. Her license was suspended from November 2, 2025, to November 2, 2026. Fines and costs were deducted from her bond, and she completed a driver intervention program. She was instructed to show proof of insurance by January 22, 2026. A separate charge related to faulty headlights was dismissed.

**Garth K. McGrew** of Sycamore, Ohio, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation and was fined \$55 plus court costs.

**Jeremiah R. Myers** of Defiance, Ohio, was found guilty of operating an unsafe vehicle and was fined \$140 with \$105 in court costs.

**Preston J. Cunningham** of Toledo, Ohio, was found guilty of failure to control his vehicle. He was fined \$70 and assessed \$97 in court costs. A second charge of impaired alertness was dismissed.

**Derrick J. Clellan** of Payne, Ohio, had a charge of driving under suspension dismissed.

**Chanteanna B. Foster** of Detroit, Michigan, was also found guilty of a seat belt violation while driving and fined

\$30. **Dennis L. Schmucker** of Hicksville was cited for a seat belt violation while driving. He was found guilty and fined \$30.

**Nichole E. Leatherman** of Paulding pleaded guilty to failure to control. She was fined \$70 and assessed court costs of \$95.

**Jonathan P. Garcia** of Holgate was found guilty of failure to control. He was fined \$70, with \$100 in court costs.

**Kevin M. Ester** of Ney was cited for failure to control. He pleaded guilty and was fined \$70 and assessed \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Steven B. Stewart** of Citronelle, Alabama, was found guilty of driving while texting. He was fined \$95.

**Heather M. Adams** of Oakwood was found guilty of failure to control. She was fined \$70 plus \$95 in court costs.

**Arlen Stoller** of Haviland was found guilty of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Cynthia L. Morningstar** of Defiance was found guilty of driving under an FRA suspension. A \$100 fine was imposed but suspended with proof of insurance. She was also assessed \$97 in court costs.

**Victoria A. Simonin** of Paulding was found guilty of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Kurtis P. Puckett** of Haviland was charged with domestic violence. The case was dismissed without prejudice by the State, and court costs of \$47 were waived.

**Philip M. Owens** of Convoy was found guilty of driving while texting. He was assessed \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Aaron L. Nuest** of Payne was also found guilty of driving while texting and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. This case, too, was waived by the defendant.

**OHIO EPA ORDERS LEAD TESTING, EMISSION CONTROLS, AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH AT BUNTING BEARINGS DEMOLITION SITE**

Ohio EPA issued Director's Final Findings and Orders (DFFO) today to Bunting Bearings and the Fulton County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank), requiring environmental sampling, lead dust suppression measures, and community engagement.

Ohio EPA sent a Community Notice earlier this week to alert the public that air monitor testing results from November and December showed elevated levels of lead in the air caused by demolition at the Bunting Bearings site in the Village of Delta.

Under the Order, if Ohio EPA air monitors continue to detect elevated levels of lead leaving the site, the company and the Land Bank are required to immediately investigate the cause and propose steps to reduce emissions.

Also, responsible parties must hire an environmental contractor to develop a site assessment plan addressing lead releases associated with demolition. The plan must be submitted to Ohio EPA for approval and include community soil and surface wipe sampling, a timeline for com-

pleting the work, and steps to reduce lead if air sampling results continue to exceed state or federal standards.

Before any future demolition can take place, Bunting Bearings and the Land Bank must submit a lead mitigation plan detailing how dust will be controlled, how waste will be handled, and how air quality will be monitored.

The order also requires the responsible parties to name a community liaison and create a plan for communicating with residents and coordinating access for sampling activities. In addition, Bunting Bearings and the Land Bank must submit documentation to Ohio EPA on where all materials from the demolition went, along with waste receipts.

On Wednesday, January 7, 2026, Ohio EPA staff collected additional air and wipe samples from structures in nearby areas to the demolition site, including the elementary, middle, and high schools, and are increasing the frequency of air sample collection in Delta. Out of an abundance of caution, drinking water samples were collected and analyzed from the Delta and Swanton public water treatment plants. Results show no lead was detected.

Ohio EPA will continue to report the results of air sampling to the public on its website as they become available.

**SENATE BILL 328 WOULD BOOST WORKFORCE READINESS FOR OHIO STUDENTS**

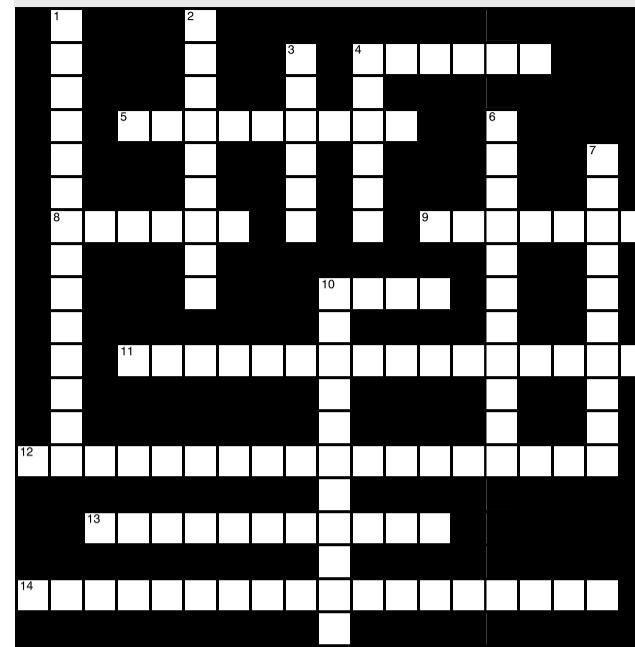
Middle and high school students could better connect their educational experiences to viable career paths in Ohio, under a bipartisan bill sponsored by State Sen. Kyle Koehler (R-Springfield).

For 43% of the 138,038 students who started high school in the Class of 2018—the most recent cohort for which complete data are available—high school was their last formal education stop before entering the workforce, according to research by Ohio Excels, a business-backed, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to improving the state's education system.

While many students pursue additional education after high school, nearly half of those who go on do not earn a

**WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle**

IT'S GROUNDHOG DAY!



**Across**

- 4. Some view the groundhog's emergence as a symbol of the impending arrival of WHAT season.
- 5. Modern day "Groundhog Day" has roots in the Germany's tradition of Candlemas called THIS.
- 8. Punxsutawney has one of THESE of Phil in his honor.
- 9. Groundhog Day has its roots in THIS country's folklore.
- 10. First reported news of a Groundhog Day observance in the United States was in THIS year.
- 11. The famous groundhog known for weather predictions.
- 12. West Virginia's resident groundhog meteorologist.
- 13. Groundhogs are known to hibernate during the winter months.

**Down**

- 14. Groundhog Day is seen as a folk method for doing THIS... and not usually very accurately.
- 1. Phil is often referred to as the "weather WHAT."
- 2. Another name for a groundhog.
- 3. The place where the groundhog emerges to make its prediction.
- 4. Determines whether winter will continue or spring will arrive early.
- 6. The date celebrated as Groundhog Day each year.
- 7. Self-proclaimed "Groundhog Capital of the World" is in this town in Wisconsin.
- 10. It is said that Groundhog Day has been celebrated on February 2nd since WHEN?

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879  
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degree. A recent poll conducted by Ohio Excels shows that 86% of Ohio parents believe it is important for their child to have a plan that maps out a pathway to a career after high school or college.

Based on this analysis, Ohio Excels convened the Career-Connected Learning Coalition, a group of leaders who represent teachers, superintendents, school counselors, career-tech leaders,

(Continued on Page 10)

**LEGAL NOTICE**

The 2025 Annual Financial Report for the Village of Payne is complete and available for review at the Village of Payne Office at 119 North Main Street in Payne, Ohio. The Village of Payne Council holds their meetings the second and fourth Monday of each month at the Village Office at 7:00 p.m.

—Cassie Wright, Village of Payne Fiscal Officer

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**

Sealed proposals will be received by Antwerp Local Schools at, 303 South Harrmann Road, Antwerp, Ohio 45813, until February 19, 2026 at 1:30 PM, at which time and place proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud. Proposals received after February 19, 2026 at 1:30 PM will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be for the furnishing of materials and the performance of labor necessary for the:

- 25057.00 Antwerp Bus Building Addition and Renovation
- 303 South Harrmann Rd, Antwerp, OH 45813
- Antwerp, Ohio, 45813

All in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by Garmann/Miller & Associates, Inc., Minster, OH | Columbus, OH | Indianapolis, IN | Ft. Wayne, IN

A Lump Sum bid for the project will be received.

A prebid meeting will be held at 10:00 AM on February 9, 2026 at Antwerp Local Schools Central Office Conference Room. The pre-bid meeting is not mandatory but bidders are strongly encouraged to attend. The facility will be open for inspection at this time.

A Bid Security in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit, or surety company bond pursuant to Chapter 1305 of the Ohio Revised code in the amount of 10% of the total bid shall accompany each bid; or a bid guaranty bond in accordance with Chapter 153.571 of the Ohio Revised Code in the amount of 100% of the total bid shall accompany each bid.

The Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications, are on file for public inspection at the office of the Architect: Garmann/Miller & Associates Inc., Phone 419-628-4240: the office of the Antwerp Local Schools; Construction News Corporation, the McGraw Hill-Dodge Plan Room, the Builders Exchange and iSoft.

Contract Documents may be purchased from DC Reprographics, 1254 Courtland Ave, Columbus, Ohio 43201; www.DCplanroom.com; Phone 614-297-1200. Each Bidder is responsible for shipping cost or providing a shipping number for billing to the bidders account.

Each bid must be submitted in duplicate on a blank form furnished by the Architect, in a sealed envelope. Mark plainly on the outside of the envelope, the project you are bidding on. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of sixty (60) days after the bid opening.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive informalities, irregularities and/or errors in the bids to the extent permitted by law. This includes the right to extend the date and time for receipt of bids..

This notice is posted on the Antwerp Local School District web site.

Notice can be accessed at: www.antwrpschools.org  
The Date of this notice: January 23, 2026

By: Antwerp Local School District  
303 South Harrmann Road  
Antwerp, Ohio 45813

**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**

# 1812 OFFICER & NCO TRAINING GARRISON



An 1812 Officer & NCO Training is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2026, at The Old Fort on Spy Run Avenue. This garrison provides an opportunity for reenactors to learn the skills needed to become an officer in an 1812 unit. It also allows current officers to improve their skills.

As you walk through the gates of The Old Fort, you will find yourself immersed in life

in a frontier fort during the cold months of winter. Reenactors will be participating in maneuvers and drill sessions. The day also includes daily duties and work details needed to survive the winter months.

Families and history enthusiasts can explore the buildings of the fort and interact with the reenactors and civilians to learn what it is like

to live in a frontier fort during the winter months. Guests can also visit with local artisans.

Ongoing construction may limit access to certain buildings. Learn about the construction project and how you can help "Keep the Fort in Fort Wayne."

Admission to the event is free, with the option of freewill donations. Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. is a nonprofit

organization committed to preserving the rich heritage of Fort Wayne. As a volunteer-driven organization, it relies heavily on community support and donations to continue its mission of education and preservation.

For the latest information and any schedule changes, visit the Historic Fort Wayne Facebook page at facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne.

of each species.

The mission of the Division of Wildlife is to conserve and improve fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. Visit wildohio.gov ([https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-con-](https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-con)

servation/about-ODNR/wildlife) to find out more.

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

(Continued from Page 9)

business groups, state agencies, regional partnerships, and other advocates, to develop a proposal to begin improving student workforce readiness and address these challenges that became SB 328.

In advocating for this legislation, Koehler said that Ohio's workforce depends on students who graduate fully prepared to step into the opportunities of today's economy.

"Workforce needs are why Senate Bill 328 is so critical," Koehler said. "Not enough middle and high schools are providing career-connected learning, and too many students miss opportunities essential to their success, long-term economic stability, and to Ohio's competitiveness."

Among co-sponsors of the workforce readiness legislation are a strong coalition from both parties, including Sens. Willis Blackshear Jr. (D-Dayton), Andrew Brenner (R-Delaware), Catherine Ingram (D-Cincinnati), Bill Reineke (R-Tiffin), and Jane Timken (R-Jackson Township).

Middle school career exploration for students in grades 6-8 would be required beginning in the 2026-27 school year, under SB 328. Students will complete a half unit of career exploration (unless the district submits an approved alternative plan) that includes exposure to Ohio's 16 career clusters through hands-on learning, career interest and aptitude assessments, at least one career coaching session, early financial planning, and professional and soft skills development, and development of a personalized academic and career plan according to the legislation.

The bill also strengthens Ohio's ability to use data more effectively through the Education and Workforce Return on Investment (ROI) Initiative. This enterprise requires state agencies to work together to link and analyze data across systems, making it possible to identify which programs deliver the strongest outcomes for students, employers, and taxpayers.

Starting with 8th-grade

students in the 2026-27 school year, every student will prepare a personalized academic and career plan that includes their strengths, interests, and aptitudes, career pathway alignment, academic, financial, and lifestyle goals, and a roadmap to meet graduation requirements tailored to their individual plan, under the legislation. Students' plans will culminate in a professional resume completed by the student's senior year. The plans would also be updated annually, transferable, and accessible to families year round.

SB 328 reflects exactly the kind of clear, structured approach that Ohio's business community has been calling for, said Ohio Excels President Lisa Gray.

"This legislation will help every student explore careers, build essential professional skills, and chart a meaningful path after high school," Gray said. "We are grateful for Senator Koehler's leadership in strengthening the connection between education and workforce readiness and ensuring that Ohio is preparing students for the opportunities of the future."

Ohio Excels is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization created in 2018 by state business leaders to improve educational outcomes and ensure K-12 schools prepare students for success in higher education, the military, and the workforce. For more information on Ohio Excels, visit <https://www.ohioexcels.org/>

## PURDUE FORT WAYNE'S OMNIBUS RETURNS: MELISSA PROCTOR



FORT WAYNE, Ind. — Atlanta Hawks executive and professional sports trailblazer Melissa Proctor will be the next presenter in the Purdue University Fort



## 42nd OHIO WILDLIFE DIVERSITY CONFERENCE CELEBRATES SUCCESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Learn about freshwater musseles, grassland birds, native bees, Tippedcanoe darters, and more during the 42nd annual Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference on Wednesday, March 11, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife. The conference, themed "Celebrating Success," will be held at The Ohio State University's Ohio Union in

Columbus. Registration is now open (<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/education-training/wildlife-diversity-conference/2026-ohio-wildlife-diversity-conference>).

The Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference annually welcomes wildlife researchers, students, educators, and enthusiasts to celebrate the state's lesser-known wildlife species. The popular event draws hundreds of guests to listen to presentations from experts and network with wildlife professionals.

The 42nd annual Ohio Wildlife Diversity Conference will take place on Wednesday, March 11.

This year's event features a keynote presentation from Dr. Michael Hoggarth of Otterbein University titled, "On the Cusp of a Comeback: The Status of the Freshwater Mussels

of Ohio." Additional presentations include:

- *Midden Makers on the Mend*: Ohio's Allegheny Woodrat Comeback, by Becky Crow, ODNR Division of Wildlife

- *Small but Mighty*: Reintroduction of the Tiny Tippedcanoe Darter into Ohio's Largest River Systems, by Brian Zimmerman, The Ohio State University

- *Succession to Success*: Management and Movement of Massasaugas, by Jesse Sockman, The Ohio State University

- *Sturgeon Surge*: Lake Sturgeon Reintroduction in Ohio, by Eric Weimer, ODNR Division of Wildlife

- *Let's Make a Buzz*: Celebrating the Success of Ohio's First Statewide Bee Survey, by Dr. Karen Goodell, The Ohio State University Newark

- *Habitat Management Successes*: Lessons from Grassland Bird Monitoring in Ohio, by Joseph Lautenbach, ODNR Division of Wildlife

- *Celebrating Fungal Diversity*: A New Guide to Common Ohio Mushrooms, by Django Grootmyers, University of Tennessee Knoxville

Date and time: Wednesday, March 11, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Doors open at 8 a.m.

Ohio Union, 1739 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43210. The conference, check-in, and on-site registration are on the second floor of the Ohio Union.

Parking: Conference attendees should park in the Ohio Union South Parking Garage (1759 North High Street).

Preregistration is recommended (<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/education-training/wildlife-diversity-conference>) and can be completed at [wildohio.gov](http://wildohio.gov) or by calling 1-800-WILDLIFE (945-3543)

New this year, participants can register as a Legacy Partner. This registration option comes with a themed tote bag (also included with discounted rate), 2026 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp, 2026 Wild Ohio Calendar, one-year membership to Wild Ohio Magazine, reserved table seating, and a wildlife diversity themed gift.

Conference attendees who preregister may also purchase the 2026 Ohio Wildlife Legacy Stamp featuring a killdeer and will receive their stamp at the conference. Stamps will also

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# DOWN ON THE FARM



My dad and mom standing in the tall corn.

February reminds me of two jobs on the farm, in the spring, that I thoroughly enjoyed. When the ground started to thaw and it started to get muddy the time was near. I think in those days we had colder winters and more snow. Don't tell Al Gore or he'll think he was right. Perhaps I was wrong we had one degree last night.

February was time to think about making maple syrup. We had approximately a dozen huge Sugar Maple trees on a hill in one of our woods. We only made several gallons each year but it was enough for us to use and give some away. To set up camp we moved the huge iron butchering kettle to the woods and made a stack of wood. Tap the trees, hang the buckets, keep the fire going

and ladle the syrup into jugs. We simply banked the fire at night and next morning made another roaring fire. The weather was always chilly but warm by the fire. In the woods it is always warm even in zero weather.

The other job was done on a day when it froze at night and thawed in the daytime. That was planting clover. We walked the wheat field with a seeder which was connected to a bag of seed over your shoulder. You turned the seeder by hand and walked across the field making a swath about 15 ft wide. Turn, move over, then return in the opposite direction. The seed was generally, Red Clover, White Clover, and Timothy mixed. Alfalfa was grown in a separate field.

Wayne Omnibus Speaker Series on Feb. 12. Proctor's dream was to become the first female coach in the NBA, but is now executive vice president and chief marketing officer for the Hawks and State Farm Arena, serving in both positions since 2016. She will step onto the Auer Performance Hall stage at 7:30 p.m. to present "From Ball Girl to CMO," the title of her 2020 biography.

Tickets will be released Thursday at 1:30 p.m. They are free, general admission, and available on a first-

come, first-served basis through the Schatzlein Box Office or PFW's online ticketing platform.

A convenience charge is assessed per ticket for online orders. Anyone wanting to get tickets to the show in person may visit the box office Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Reserved online tickets can be sent to patrons via text message or email. These digital options are helpful to avoid standing at the box office the night of the show. Tickets can also be picked up in person beginning one

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

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

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

We grew soft winter wheat which was planted around September after other crops were off. By winter it was up several inches high and nice and green. The wheat stayed dormant all winter, and about April was a beautiful green. Wheat harvest began on July 4th, cutting a round and taking it to the mill to check for moisture. When I was a lad wheat was \$2.25 a bushel, but you were docked heavily if it was not under 15% moisture.

Wheat was cut quite high leaving a stubble over a foot high. After harvest the straw was mowed with a hay

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

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mower, then baled. By wheat harvest the clover crop was up about 6 inches and ready for harvest in the fall. The hay crop would be harvested in the fall and several times the following year. I still crave the taste of maple syrup, and the smell of new mown hay.

I miss the timing of the seasons that we knew on the farm. Summer arrives here and I didn't realize that spring had passed. On the farm we would have planted oats in the early spring. Next time we meet one of the funniest things that I remember.

—James Neuhouser

hour before the presentation.

The first ball girl for the Miami Heat as a 16-year-old, Proctor began her professional career working for the team's basketball operations division. She moved to Atlanta to work for Turner Broadcasting System in 2010, and currently oversees the club's day-to-day marketing teams and a host of responsibilities, including marketing operations, Hawks Studios creative agency, live experience and production, and retail and brand merchandising.

For more information on the other 2025-26 speakers – and the series itself – visit PFW.edu/omnibus.

### HUSTED SECURES \$6.87 MILLION FOR OHIO IN SENATE-APPROVED FUNDING PACKAGE

Sen. Jon Husted (R-Ohio) voted to pass a funding package, which secured critical investments for Ohio while taking an important step toward preventing another government shutdown.

The bill passed with overwhelming, bipartisan support. "This bill includes significant investments in Ohio that advance research and innovation, protect our environment and secure America from our adversaries. Ohioans can always count on me to deliver real results and ensure our

ing Ohio specific funding wins through congressionally directed spending requests:

- \$500,000 for the Ohio Aerospace Institute's "Quantum and Space Technologies Education, Training and Research Initiative."
- \$1.75 million for Case Western Reserve University's "Advanced Product Manufacturing Initiative."
- \$1.5 million for the University of Dayton's "Nanoscience Device Research and Workforce Development Lab."
- \$1.5 million for the Transportation Research Center's "Impact Lab Equipment."
- \$1.25 million for Ohio University's "Research Equipment for U.S. Energy Leadership and Supply Chain Strength."
- \$1.145 million for Sinclair Community College's "Center for Advanced Manufacturing."
- \$620,000 for Cold Creek and Lake Erie Western Basin for Water Quality Improvement Project.

On top of Ohio specific line items, the funding package includes the following for commerce, justice and science programs:

- Fully funds the Departments of Commerce, Justice, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and related agencies through September 2026.
- Supportive language for the Fission Surface Power program.
- NASA Glenn in Cleveland is the lead center for this program.
- \$110 million set-aside in the Space Technology account for nuclear propulsions systems.
- NASA Glenn is the lead center for this project.
- \$100 million for the Gateway program.
- NASA Glenn is the lead center for development of Gateway's Power and Propulsion Element.

For the environment and interior programs:

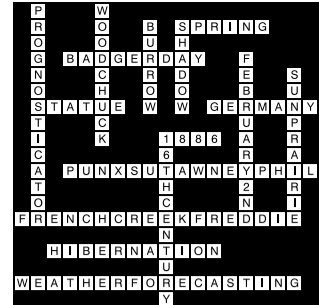
- Fully funds the Department of the Interior, the Environmental Protection Agency and other related agencies through September 2026.
- \$30.7 million for the Rural Water Technical Assistance Grant Program.
- Husted's bill, the Water Resources Technical Assistance Act of 2025, would help support this program.
- \$368 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Program.
- \$2.8 billion for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State

state has the resources it needs to thrive," said Husted.

"This bill is also a meaningful step forward—fully funding essential services for Americans and providing stability for families, workers and communities across the country. The recent government shutdown caused unnecessary pain for the American people, and I'm encouraged that we are on a path to avoiding another shutdown through today's vote," added Husted.

The funding package is composed of three of the 12 appropriations subcommittee bills needed to fully fund the government. All three of these bills passed the Senate Appropriations Committee and the Senate floor with bipartisan support.

Husted secured the follow-



**Crossword solution from page 9**

Revolving Fund.

- Directs resources for deep-sea mapping and characterization of crucial mineral resources in the Pacific Ocean and includes additional funding to counter efforts by China to reduce the U.S. mineral supply chain.

The funding package also includes the following for energy and water programs:

- \$5.99 billion for operations, maintenance and related activities at water resources projects that the Army Corps of Engineers operates and maintains, which includes multiple projects in Ohio.
- \$1.8 billion for the Office of Nuclear Energy, plus an additional \$3.1 billion in funding for small modular and advanced nuclear reactors.
- \$30.7 million for the transport of surplus depleted uranium oxide cylinders from the Paducah, Kentucky, and Piketon, Ohio, Gaseous Diffusion Plants.
- Continued efforts from the Army Corps of Engineers to stop invasive carp from reaching the Great Lakes.
- \$100 million for the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program, which includes the Luckey Site and the Harshaw Chemical Company cleanups in Ohio.
- \$200 million for the Appalachian Regional Commission, a federal-state partnership that works with Appalachian states to create opportunities for economic development.
- AI-driven tools to assess risks associated with coastal storms, Great Lakes high-water events and compound flooding.

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**THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E**

**HELP WANTED**

The Village of Hicksville is accepting applications for part-time (Seasonal) groundskeepers in our Parks Dept. Candidate must be of a minimum 18 years of age with a valid Ohio driver's license. Duties included but are not limited to mowing, prepping playing fields, painting, cleaning, landscaping, grounds maintenance work. Salary for this position is \$15.45 per hour for up to 29 hours a week. A drug screen and background check is required for the position. Applications are available at the Village Municipal Building.

Deadline for applications will be March 13th. Please contact the Village Administrator with any questions 419-542-6138 ext.6.

**THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E**

**HELP WANTED:**

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## CHEPC HOSTS YOUTH COOKIE BAKE-OFF FOCUSED ON FOOD SCIENCE, TEAMWORK & COMMUNITY LEARNING



Christian Home Educa-tors of Paulding County (CHEPC) recently hosted a Cookie Bake-Off for local students at the Paulding County OSU Extension's commercial kitchen, offering a hands-on learning experience centered on food science, kitchen safety, teamwork, and creativity.

The event began with an educational session led by Emma Horstman and Erika Johanns with Family & Consumer Sciences, with support from Michael Schweinsberg with 4-H Youth Development, where students learned essential food safety practices, proper measuring techniques, and how ingredients work together to create successful baked goods.

Following the lesson, students were divided into teams and challenged to de-

velop their own cookie recipes using a variety of "mystery ingredients," including unlabeled extracts and surprise mix-ins. Teams worked together to measure, mix, bake, and manage their time, all under adult supervision in a commercial kitchen setting.

Cookies were evaluated by Family & Consumer Sciences judges, with awards presented for Most Creative, Best Overall, and Best Teamwork.

The event was made possible through the generosity of families, local businesses, and community members who donated ingredients, supplies, and prizes. Donors included Maid to Achieve, Sweet A.S. Cakes, Jessica Doctor, Rhonda Bakle, Jeremy and Jessica Goyings, and Scott and Jill Strahley.

CHEPC is a local group

of families that meets regularly to provide educational, social, and enrichment opportunities for home-educated students throughout Paulding County.

### WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN FEBRUARY 2026

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is excited to announce February is Love Your Library Month, stop in if haven't been to your library lately. We are more than just books. Tell us what you would like to see happening at the library, ideas are always welcome. The libraries Winter Reading Challenge is still happening if you'd like to register. The library will be closed on Monday February 16 for President's Day. The Adult Section start-

## PAULDING TROOP 315 COMPETES IN KLONDIKE DERBY AT CAMP LAKOTA



Paulding's Troop 315, sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 587, ran in the Klondike Derby at Camp Lakota near Defiance Saturday January 24th. Only 15 sleds were entered this year and Troop 315 finished 7th. They also Polar Bear camped Saturday night.

ing in February will be moving Adult Make and Take Crafts to Mondays at 11:00 a.m. starting February 2nd.

Coffee Talk continues Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., sit, relax, snack and have some lively conversation.

Black Swamp Bookworms meet, Tuesday, February 10th at 5:30 p.m., the book is "The Favorites" by Layne Fargo.

Adult Bingo will be on Tuesday February 17th at 11:00 a.m. Registration is required, call 419-399-2032.

Teen Cookbook Club for ages 13-19, is Monday, February 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

Adult Cookbook Club is on Monday, February 23rd at 5:30 p.m.

The Children's Room will continue Storytime with Kirk every Wednesday at 11:00 a.m.

Stop by the Children's room February 9 to the 14th for some Valentine fun.

Lego Club will be on Thursday February 19th, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Let's Build!

Valentine Movie and Game Night on Tuesday, February 10th, 5:00-6:00 p.m., snacks, crafts, fun and a movie. Watch for activities all week-long February 9th to the 14th.

**ANTWERP BRANCH:** The Antwerp Branch will have Book Club on February 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Cookbook club is February 23rd at 5:45 p.m.

Storytime is every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m.

Beeswax Wrap Class is Saturday February 21st at 11:00 a.m. Please register by calling 419-258-2855.

Family Game Night is Thursday, February 19th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Call 410-258-2855 for more information.

Couple's Giveaway Basket, stop in and see how you can WIN!

Bread Class will be Saturday, February 28th at 11:00 a.m. Bring a bowl and herbs you would like to add. Stephanie will teach you how to make your own bread.

**GROVER HILL:** The Grover Hill Branch will host Crystal Clear Intentions on Thursday, February 5th.

Munchkin Storytime will be on Friday February 6th and Friday, February 20th at 10:30 a.m. Storytime is designed for ages 6 and under which includes a story and activity plus a treat. Bring a friend or make a new one.

Senior Bingo will take place on Thursday, February 12th at 1:00 p.m. Guests are invited to come dressed up in light pink or their favorite date wear.

GHBL Book Club will meet on February 25th at 4:00 p.m.

Monthly prize drawing will take place on Saturday, February 28th by 1:00 p.m. Make sure you enter before that date.

**OAKWOOD BRANCH:**

The Oakwood Branch will have Ms. Roper's Craft Blast on February 5th at 5:00 p.m., the class will be making pillows and other crafts.

Saturday, February 7th, kids can stop in to create Valentine Day cards.

Facebook Riddle will be February 9th with the winner being announced February 10th.

Senior Luncheon Bingo will be held on February 12th at 11:30 a.m.

Adult Cookbook Club will be on February 19th at 5:30 p.m. with a Birthday Treats theme.

Saturday, February 21 at 11:00 a.m. brings both Children's Story time and an Artisan Bread Workshop, please call to register. Bring a bowl and any herbs you'd like to add.

February 24th from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., join the Quilt Block of the Month, where we learn a new 12-inch block, stop in for fabric requirements.

Stop in all month long to sign up for our February gift basket, earn an entry with each item checked out. Drawing will be held on February 27th.

**PAYNE BRANCH:** The Payne Branch will have Storytime on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. Listen to a story and make a craft to take home.

Thursday, February 12th, the Wayne Trace Art Club Valentine Party will be 4:00-5:00 p.m. Come make crafts, play games and hang out with friends.

Monday February 23rd rescheduled Oil Class with Judy. We will be discussing products to use to do this process and making a roller blend of Revitazen to use for liver detox.

Wednesdays Books and Coffees at 1:00 p.m. No reading required! Just come and listen to others talk and share if you like. Bring a coffee to sip on and enjoy some time at the library.

# SALE ITEMS!

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