

# WEST BEND NEWS

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

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

## VANTAGE CAREER CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH CEREMONY, OPEN HOUSE, AND TASTE OF VANTAGE



Left to right: Cyndi Brill, Career Tech Supervisor; Tonya Temple, Student Services Supervisor; Ben Winans, High School Director; Julie Schroeder, Career Tech Supervisor; Ashley Cline, Supervisor of Student Operations; and Rick Turner, Superintendent.

Van Wert, Ohio — February is Career Technical Education Month and Vantage Career Center celebrated a major milestone on February 9, 2026, marking 50 years of career-technical education and workforce training with a special anniversary ceremony and community open house that brought together local and state leaders, alumni, families, and industry partners.

The 50th Anniversary Celebration Ceremony featured remarks from Superintendent Rick Turner, Vantage Board of Education President Tim Fitzpatrick, and Vantage alumnus and current Network Systems

Instructor Austin Meyer. Representatives from the offices of Senator Robert McColley, Auditor of State Keith Faber, Senator Bernie Moreno, U.S. Senator Jon Husted, and the Van Wert County Commissioners presented official recognitions honoring Vantage's long-standing impact on education and workforce development.

"This is an exciting time at Vantage as we celebrate our 50th anniversary along with the Open House and Taste of Vantage," said Superintendent Rick Turner. "It's not only a time to reflect on the success of our students over the past 50 years, but also to look

ahead to the next 50 and anticipate even greater success as our business and community relationships continue to evolve to meet the technological needs of today's workforce. It's also exciting to see sophomores and their parents visiting our programs and beginning that journey with Vantage Career Center over the next few years."

Following the ceremony, Vantage hosted its Open House and Taste of Vantage, welcoming hundreds of community members and prospective students to campus. High school sophomores and their families explored 19 career-technical programs, spoke with instructors, viewed student demonstrations, and connected with employer and college partners. Adult Education staff were also available to assist graduating seniors and adult learners interested in advancing their careers in health, manufacturing, and public safety fields.

(Continued on Page 2)

## UNITED WAY OF PC RECEIVES GRANT FROM PC AREA FOUNDATION FOR DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY



Pictured above are young readers: Eva Schmidt (1 years old); and Max Schmidt (4 years old) enjoying their latest reads provided by the Dolly Parton Imagination Library.

United Way of Paulding County is proud to announce it has received a generous grant from the Paulding County Area Foundation to support the Dolly Parton Imagination Library program, a beloved program that provides free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, regardless of a family's income or background.

Through this funding, more children across Paulding County will receive a new book delivered directly to their home each month, helping to spark a love of reading, strengthen early literacy skills, and support families in building strong foundations for lifelong learning.

"We believe every child deserves the opportunity to succeed, and that begins with access to books and early learning experiences," said Lora Lyons, Executive Director of United Way of Paulding County. "This grant allows us to continue investing in our youngest minds and ensuring that no child is left behind simply because of financial barriers."

The program is part of the

nationally recognized Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which has gifted millions of books to children across the world. By partnering locally, United Way of Paulding County is helping bring this impactful program directly into homes throughout the community.

The Paulding County Area Foundation's support reflects its ongoing commitment to strengthening families, education, and the overall well-being of the county.

"This is more than books, it's about hope, opportunity, and showing our children that their community believes in them," United Way shared.

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Support Local Organizations & Businesses making this edition of the West Bend News

## Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

February 17

• Adult Bingo @ Paulding Library, 11a; registration req'd

February 18

• Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p  
 • WBESC Board Meeting @ Paulding Conf Rm., 5:30p  
 • Legacy Planning Seminar @ 1st Church of Christ, Hicksville, 7p

February 19

• Blood Drive - 1st Church of Christ Hicksville, 1-6p  
 • Out of Sight, Out of Murder Auditions @ Huber, 6-8p  
 • Coffee Talk at Paulding Library, 1p  
 • Lego Club @ Paulding Library Children's Rm., 4-5p  
 • Family Game Night @ Antwerp Library, 5:30-6:30p

February 20

• Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p  
 • CCBanks' The Kitchen Witches @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 7:30p  
 • NSCC Board meeting @ Archbold campus, 11a

February 21

• Valentine's Dance @ Antwerp VFV, 5-9p  
 • CCBanks' The Kitchen Witches @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 7:30p  
 • Out of Sight, Out of Murder Auditions @ Huber, 10a-12p  
 • Beeswax Wrap Class @ Antwerp Library, 11a

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**OBITUARIES**



DEFIANCE, OH:  
**Eugene B. "Gene" Weidenhamer**, age 87, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at his home, surrounded by his family.

Gene was born on October 22, 1938 in Jewell, OH to the late Bernard W. and Vivian (Coressel) Weidenhamer. On July 8, 1967 he married Linda L. Manon, who survives. Gene proudly served his country in the United States Army. He worked in maintenance at Johns Manville in Defiance for 44 years before his retirement in 2000. Gene was a member of St. John's Catholic Church in Defiance. He was also a member of the Paulding VFW Post 587, where he served in the Honor Guard for many years. Gene was also a lifetime member of the Defiance Eagles Aerie 372 and the Defiance Amvets Post 1991. He was an Auglaize Township Trustee for 20 years, a board member for Arthur Mutual Telephone Company, and a charter member of the Auglaize Fire Department. Gene umpired high school baseball and softball for 35 years and refereed high school basketball and volleyball. He was a past president of the Paulding Ball Association, where he coached for many years, a past president of the Paulding High School Athletic Boosters, and an honorary member of the Paulding FFA. Gene was a part of the Ayersville High School 1957 state championship basketball team.

Along with his loving wife, Gene is survived by his children: Tracy (Mike) Gerken, Defiance, OH; Todd (Regina) Weidenhamer, Paulding, OH; Chad (Leticia) Weidenhamer, Sandy Springs, GA; grandchildren: Jacob, Chantell, Jon, Jennifer, Leva, Brooke, Hailey, Cole, and Kensie; nine great grandchildren with two on the way.

Gene was also preceded in death by his brothers: Leslie Weidenhamer, Daniel Weidenhamer; sister, Karen Brown.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, February 16, 2026 at Divine Mercy Catholic Parish,

Paulding, with Father John Stites officiating. Burial will follow in Paulding Memorial Cemetery with military rites accorded by the Paulding VFW Post 587.

Visitation will be from 2:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 15, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home with a wake service at 7:30 P.M.

Memorial contributions may be made in Gene's memory to the Paulding County Veterans Memorial.

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

**Arthur Dean Dilling**, 79, of Payne, Ohio passed away Saturday, January 3, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Jeannette Clevinger**, 79, of Antwerp, passed away Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Paulding County Hospital. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Wilfred (Willie) August Doll Jr**, 78 of Antwerp, passed away January 6, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Keith Francis Fillmore**, 69, of Antwerp, Ohio, passed away Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Roland "Pudge" Kennedy**, 74, of Antwerp, Ohio passed away at home on Friday, January 11, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Grace Irene Gross**, 93, of Antwerp, passed away Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at the Antwerp Manor. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

GROVER HILL, OH:  
**Nancy Ruth Scott**, 76, of Grover Hill, Ohio passed away at home on Friday, January 16, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

FORT WAYNE, IN:  
**Frank Roger Wayne**, 73, of Fort Wayne, Indiana passed away Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Susan Kay Fulk**, 60, of Antwerp, passed away surrounded by family on Wednesday, January 28, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Jack E. Lichty**, 73, of Antwerp, Ohio passed away Sunday, February 1, 2026 at University of Toledo Medical Center. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

PAULDING, OH:  
**Larry Dix**, 53, of Paulding, passed away February 2, 2026 at the Laurels of Defiance. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

PAYNE, OH:  
**Michael Jon Jones**, 58 of Payne, passed away at Vancrest of Payne on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

**YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**February 1943: Two cannons on the courthouse square are sold for scrap for the war effort. Posing on a cannon are three young women, who have loved ones serving in the military, Marjorie Gorman, Kathryn Schilb and Ruth Grandstaff.**

**By: Melinda Krick**  
*It Happened in February ...*

Many notable events in county history have taken place in the month of February:

1820 - The Ohio Legislature divides the last remaining unorganized area of the state into 14 counties, including Paulding County.

1824 - Williams County organizes with Defiance as the county seat. Paulding County is attached to it for judicial purposes until its own organization in 1839.

1832 - Ground is broken at Fort Wayne for construction of the Wabash & Erie Canal east to Junction in Paulding County. The canal will link Lake Erie at Toledo with the Ohio River at Evansville, Ind.

1872 - The upper part of the Paulding (iron smelting) Furnace catches fire. Several local citizens work to extinguish the flames, which cause about \$1,000 worth of damage to the structure.

1874 - Four Granges (Flat Rock, Washington, Latty and Oakwood) organize, following the formation of the first Grange in the county in January.

1876 - Poles for a telegraph line between Emerald Station and Paulding have been put in place.

1877 - Ties have been purchased for the Paulding & Cecil Railroad and if the weather holds, work should begin next week.

1880 - The fire alarm rings for Antwerp Furnace, caused by the blowing out of the gas from the stack, sending flames several hundred feet into the air. Debris falls onto the furnace and some of the adjoining dwellings. The works are set ablaze in a dozen different places, but are extinguished without serious damage. Two nearby frame buildings, occupied as residences by laborers at the works, are set on fire; one is totally destroyed and the roof and upper story of the other are burned away.

1883 - A big storm and the resulting flooding cause the county to suffer materially in the loss of bridges. The wagon bridge at Oakwood is out, the large covered bridge at Charloe is damaged and the iron bridge at Junction suffers the loss of the two east spans.

1901 - George Ankney of Emerald Township brings suit in common pleas court against several individuals, charging them with the destruction of a building belonging to him at Tate's Landing. The building in

question was the one which has been occupied by a saloon for some time and several weeks ago was blow up by dynamite. Mrs. Englehart was running a saloon in the building and, she failed to pay her dow tax, the goods were removed to town by the sheriff. After the goods were removed, dynamite was placed under it and it was damaged very badly.

1904 - The Paulding Library Association opens a reading room and a library of over 200 volumes for the use and benefit of the general public. The library is located over the bank on the east side of the square. Every article of furniture in the room has been donated by thoughtful friends. Those giving substantial gifts to the library were Mrs. Eichling, Mrs. Darsie, Mrs. Ice, Mrs. Remage Sr., Mrs. E.P. Clark, Mrs. James Gasser, Mr. M.C. Powell, Mr. W.E. Decker, Mrs. Gamble, Mr. Marshall, Mrs. Herzer, Mrs. Sidle and Mr. Dunathan.

1905 - The Charloe post office is discontinued. It was established in 1840.

1911 - A subscription drive is under way to raise money to purchase four lots as a site for a new armory.

1914 - "Town of Charloe to be Sold by the Sheriff": Notices appear that the sheriff will offer at public auction nearly 200 lots in the former county seat of Charloe - practically the entire town. They are sold for delinquent taxes with no appraisal placed on them.

1915 - Currently under construction: the new Carnegie library and brick main building at the county infirmary (county home) east of Paulding.

1917 - An unknown man, about age 23, dies when the city jail at Melrose is destroyed by fire. The young man was about Melrose most all the previous day, having the appearance of a hobo very much. Along toward evening he asked for a place to stay all night and was taken to the city calaboose by the marshal. A neighbor was roused from her slumber by what she thought were cries for help. She awakened her husband and they discovered the jail in flames. The marshal arrived and unlocked the door but the building was nearly ready to collapse. The village has no fire department and the fire had such a start when discovered that the bucket brigade could do nothing with it.

1919 - The county's first

**Scripture of the Week**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

— John 3:16

**RUN YOUR RACE**



In high school, I was a fairly good track runner. My races included the 4x100, the 4x440, and the 400 meters. I must admit I was quite skilled when I stayed focused. I always had problems staying focused. I would often come out of the blocks like a bullet, in the lead, until I began to look back to see where the other runners were. Without fail, every time I did this, the other runners would overtake me, and I would slip from 1st to 3rd or 4th. My coach would say to me, "You've got to lose the fear and stay focused, you can't look back."

\*\*Hebrews 12:1-2 (NKJV)\*\*:

"Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

This passage from Hebrews serves as a powerful exhortation for believers to persevere in their faith. The imagery of a race is prevalent throughout the New Testament, emphasizing the need for endurance and focus.

1. "Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." This refers to the faithful individuals mentioned in the previous chapter (Hebrews 11) who

demonstrated tremendous faith in God. Their lives serve as examples for us, encouraging us to keep going even when we face challenges. We are not alone in our struggles; the stories of those who went before us stand as testimony that faith can overcome adversity.

2. Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us: To run a race well, one must be unencumbered. Just as an athlete sheds excess weight to enhance performance, Christians are called to rid themselves of distractions and sins that hinder their spiritual walk. Identifying and addressing these weights is essential for a productive faith journey.

3. Run with endurance the race set before us. The Christian life is described as a race requiring perseverance. It's not a sprint; it's a long-distance run that requires stamina, focus, and commitment. Endurance means we will face trials, but through determination, we can keep pressing forward.

4. Looking unto Jesus: Jesus is the ultimate example and source of our faith. By fixing our eyes on Him, we gain strength and clarity for the path ahead. He not only initiated our faith but also perfected it, guiding us through every season of life.

5. "For the joy that was set before Him endured the cross": Jesus faced unimaginable suffering, yet He endured it because of the joy of redeeming humanity. His focus on the ultimate goal—the restoration of our relationship with God—motivated Him. This teaches us that our trials can also have redemptive purposes when viewed through the lens of God's bigger plan.

6. Despising the shame: Jesus did not allow the shame associated with the cross to deter Him from His mission. This encourages believers to remain steadfast, even when facing societal pressures or personal challenges.

(Continued from Page 1)

Culinary Arts program. Participating restaurants included Black Angus Catering, Moose Landing Country Club, Millie's, R Place Stone and Grill, and SaiSaki Van Wert.

Taste of Vantage was held in the Commons Area during the Open House, featuring food samples from restaurant partners and the Vantage

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7. "Sat down at the right hand of the throne of God": This signifies His finished work and authority. Christ's position in heaven assures us that He is in control and that our perseverance has eternal significance.

In summary, Hebrews 12:1-2 calls us to recognize the great legacy of faith that surrounds us, to shed the weights of sin and distraction, to pursue our spiritual race with endurance, and to keep our eyes fixed firmly on Jesus. By doing so, we honor His sacrifice and find the strength to overcome challenges in our own lives and win the race.

Tips on running your race:  
 1. Run with all your heart. (be determined)  
 2. Stay in your lane (don't judge or compare yourself to others. Mind your business).  
 3. Don't look back.  
 4. Keep your eye on the prize. (eternity with Jesus).  
 1 Corinthians 9:24 (NKJV) states, "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it." This verse encourages us to strive for excellence and to pursue our goals with determination.  
 Peace and Love,  
 —Pastor Dwayne

**WILLIAMS FAMILY NAMED 2026 HYDRO SPONSOR FOR DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA**



Pictured are (L to R) Jim Williams, Dr. Amy Williams, and Defiance Area Foundation Marketing Director Chelsie Schroeder.

The Defiance Area Foundation would like to thank Jim and Dr. Amy Williams for serving as the 2026 Hydro Sponsor for the Foundation's Gala, to be held on October 3, 2026. Their sponsorship provides water for all event guests and contributes to the overall

success of the evening. The Foundation is grateful for Jim and Dr. Amy Williams' generosity and their support of the Foundation's mission to strengthen the Defiance County community through philanthropy.

hospital opens on the second floor of a building on the west side of the square in Paulding. Three physicians are partnering in the private institution.

1925 - Courthouse janitor William Rath is found dead from a fall in the courthouse dome. His landlord began looking for him after not showing up for breakfast or lunch. The landlord and Sheriff Betts searched the courthouse and discovered Rath's body on the floor. It is supposed that some time after 11 p.m., Rath had climbed the ladder to see of the trapdoor in the dome roof was closed, missed his footing in the dark

and fell to his death. 1931 - Subscriptions are being solicited to purchase land at the site of old Fort Brown to create a park. 1932 - The sugar beet factory is sold at a sheriff's auction. 1942 - The Grizzly Manufacturing Co. begins producing brake linings at its new factory in Paulding. Twenty-five employees are hired to start, with plans to run three eight-hour shifts 24 hours a day. 1943 - The two cannons on the northwest and southeast corners of the courthouse lawn are removed and sold for scrap. Proceeds from the sale

are used to erect an "honor roll" of residents serving in World War II. The county's scrap collection already totals more than 5 million pounds, including scrap iron, rubber and other salvage materials. 1948 - Construction begins on the new Paulding Theatre, replacing the old Grand Theatre that burned in 1946. Wartime shortages of building materials and workers caused several delays to rebuilding plans. Owner Arthur Weaver promises a beautiful, larger, modern, fireproof theatre. 1949 - Grover Hill's three-story Farm & Home Store, also called the Fraternal Company Store, is destroyed by fire. 1950 - Flood waters last week at Oakwood are reported by numerous old-timers to have been the highest since the great flood back in 1913 when most of the town was under water. The recent "high tide" had the entire south end of town shut off, with the only means of transportation by row boat. 1959 - A state of emergency exists at the Paulding County Hospital east of Paulding when the creek rises to flood stage and is only a few inches from the main entrance, as patients are being evacuated. At least 35 families at Oakwood are forced to evacuate due to flooding conditions on the Auglaize River. Volunteers work into the night helping move personal belongings, furniture and store merchandise from inundated homes and businesses. The Payne School is closed because of flooding in its gym and boiler room. 1961 - Paulding County Hospital hosts a two-day open house to showcase the new \$750,000 facility with 50 patient beds, 15 maternity beds, nursery with 15 bassinets, two operating rooms, emergency room and other modern amenities. 1967 - Lawrence Hipp announces plans to publish a history of Grover Hill and Latty and Washington townships. The book will depict earlier business and social life of the communities, such as churches, the railroad, villages, fire departments, bands, lodges and citizens. 1973 - The old sugar beet factory is purchased by Doyle Hartzog of Paulding and John Webb of Defiance. Work has begun on clearing the surrounding acreage. The new owners have not made definite plans for usage of the property but consider the location excellent for future development. The building, erected in 1910, will be razed with the exception of the lower warehouse on the west end.

the lot for \$12 each. He printed a flyer and sold his watches for \$14 each. Then he met Olva Roebuck, a watchmaker, and they decided to go into the watch business together. They made a brochure of watches and mailed the brochure as a mass mailing, and were selling watches through the mail, which was an entirely new concept. Then in 1896 something happened that was revolutionary. Rural free delivery, RFD.

They made up a catalog which sold virtually everything. Farm machinery, household items, clothing, sewing machines and plows. In the days when the nearest store was a days wagon ride away, the ordinary person could buy anything at their fingertips. People spend hours pouring over the catalog thinking about things they wanted.

Sears produced a special catalog called a Wishbook for Christmas, and kids would go through and spent hours marking things that they would like to have for Christmas. In 1925 they opened up a brick and mortar store on Chicago's west side. I remember the first Fort Wayne Sears store was the building that Kohl's operates in Northcrest Shopping Center. The thing that set Sears apart was their unmatched guarantee and customer service.

Everyone remembers the Craftsman line of power tools, Kenmore refrigerators, Diehard batteries and many more. Kenmore was actually made by Whirlpool which is still one of the best. I remember using Craftsman tools in the 1950s on up until almost the year 2000. You could dig a cemetery or find one on the street, take it in and they would give you a new one. I bought my first car in 1956 and when I needed tires I bought a set of Sears white walls. Tubeless tires were just coming out and they had a problem of developing a bulge under the outside layer. They must have given me several new sets of tires before they got that problem fixed. I used a 16-ft steel tape and they broke quite often through constant use. I must have used nearly a dozen new tape rulers. Who guarantees a tape ruler? It carried the name Craftsman. I remember walking into the Sears store in Glenbrook with the smell of caramel corn and shoe leather, and heading to the tool section. In the center of the store was a candy

store with the best chocolates I have ever eaten. I remember at winter time they had a butter fruit cake that was to die for. Later, they took out the candy store and things just weren't the same. We probably clothed our entire family with clothes purchased from Sears. In 1974 the company built Sears Tower in Chicago, which was the tallest building in the world for 20 some years. But there were some new kids on the block. Kmart sold a cheaper line of goods. In 1993 Sears merged with Kmart but they both kept sinking. If they would have seen the trend of selling on e-commerce, they would have been in business.

Things change and it is difficult to see what is trending. For our entire family Glenbrook Mall was the happening place. It's been eons since I've been there and I don't think I would care to go. I would rather just remember it the way it was. One of the coolest uses for a Sears Roebuck catalog, was shooting a rifle bullet into it. Would the bullet go through? Only one way to find out. A 22 caliber bullet would go about halfway through. It smashed the bullet and took an unusual shape. Guess we could have been forensic guys. —James Neuhouser

**THE SEARS AND ROEBUCK CATALOG**

Wow! an American institution that has affected all of us. In 1886 Richard Warren Sears was a station agent in North Redwood, Minnesota when a shipment of watches was received but no one claimed them. Rather than send them back Richard offered to buy

(Continued from Page 1)

"We are deeply grateful for this partnership and the positive difference it will make for local children."

Families with children from newborn to age five are encouraged to enroll to begin receiving free monthly books

and join in encouraging a love of reading from the very start. For more information about enrollment or the program, contact United Way of Paulding County at pcuwdirector@gmail.com or visit www.ohioimaginationlibrary.org to register your child for free!

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Christmas Sears 1966

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(Continued from Page 1)

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Families with children from newborn to age five are encouraged to enroll to begin receiving free monthly books



**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**

By: Mark Holtsberry

William Lawrence Stickney was born February 4, 1901, in Antwerp. He was the son of Walter E. Stickney, born in 1856 in Ohio, and Mary J. (Peterson) Stickney, born August 15, 1868, in Mace, Montgomery County, Ohio. The couple was married September 23, 1884, in Antwerp. They were the parents of John Sherman, born in 1887; Henry Mansfield, born in 1891; and Murial Loree, born in 1894.

In 1900, the family was living in Paulding on Harrison Street, where Walter worked as a farm laborer. The family grew with the birth of William Lawrence in 1901 and Sarah May on June 23, 1904. By 1910, the family had moved to Hicksville and was living on Arthur Street. William quit school at the end of his eighth-grade year.

On July 7, 1917, William joined Company E, 21st Ohio National Guard, out of Hicksville, serving until October 16, 1917. On the same date, July 7, 1917, he was inducted into the United States Army and reported for duty on July 15, 1917. He was assigned to Company L, 146th Infantry. On March 11, 1918, William was transferred to the Machine Gun Company, 146th Infantry.

William served overseas in the Ypres-Lys and Meuse-Argonne defensive sectors. On January 22, 1919, he boarded the ship Brest at Southampton, England, and set sail for

home. He arrived in New York on January 30, 1919, and was honorably discharged on February 15, 1919.

William's brother Henry registered for the draft on June 5, 1917. He served overseas in the Machine Gun Company, 146th Infantry, and was honorably discharged on March 21, 1919.

By 1920, William was working at the plow handle factory in Hicksville. He found adjusting to civilian life somewhat difficult. He and his brother Henry were involved in a shooting that wounded another man. According to police records, William had words with the man two years earlier over hunting rights. When they encountered each other again, an argument ensued over the same issue. William shot the man, took his money, and fled. The victim survived, but William was later found in Jeffersonville, Clark County, Indiana, where he was incarcerated at the Indiana Reformatory. While there, he passed the time weaving chairs.

In 1929, after serving his sentence, William—still single—was living with his parents at 2237 Oliver Street in Fort Wayne, working as a section hand on the railroad. By 1940, he was again living in Hicksville with his parents and continued working for the railroad as a trackman.

On February 18, 1941, William and a coworker were clearing snow from a track switch. The sound of other trains may have distracted him as he stepped in front of an oncoming train. He was struck and dragged approximately 200 feet. The train engineer did not see him. Corner A. P. Hattendorf ruled his death accidental.

William was buried in Maumee Cemetery. In 1945, he received an upright military tombstone.

As a side note, William's brother Henry was killed in a train-automobile accident on March 1, 1941. Henry was buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville. ... Until Next Time!

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## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School recently announced its January Students of the Month. Pictured here from left to right are Freshman: Nolan Schlatter; Sophomore: Holly Peffley; Junior: Max Daeger; Senior: Laila Stiltner

## PJHS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Ella Spangler (Grade 6) and Madison Durham (Grade 8). Not pictured is Cooper Boroff (Grade 7).

## PJHS POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Tucker Stoller (Grade 8), Clara Nicholson (Grade 7), and Landen White (Grade 6)

## PAULDING COUNTY BAC EXPANDS PARTNERSHIPS, ADVANCES STUDENT CAREER CONNECTIONS

PAULDING - The Paulding County Business Advisory Council (BAC) is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Paulding Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 2405. The Paulding Eagles will host future lunch-and-learn meetings. The collaboration reflects the county's ongoing commitment to uniting business, industry, and education in support of local workforce development.

The February meeting featured updates on several upcoming student-business interaction events across the region. This week, more than 40 Paulding County students toured the Sabre Industries facility in Hicksville, Ohio to learn about their business, welding, and manufacturing career pathways. The event was a joint communication effort between Paulding County Economic Development and Defiance County Economic Development.

Antwerp High School Principal Jessie Arnold shared details about the school's new Junior High Career Connections event taking place next week. Fourteen area businesses, representing a range of industry clusters, will meet with students to discuss career opportunities, mentoring possibilities, and how early exposure can help guide future high school course planning.

Paulding High School Panther for Careers Coordinator Shawn Brewer provided an update on the after-school welding class led by instructor Staci Miller. The program collaborates with Northwest State Community College (NSCC) and the economic development office to coordinate credentials. The class will take a tour at Mansfield Welding soon, and bring additional industry presenters to the classroom to broaden student to business exposure.

Wayne Trace High School Curriculum Director Tim Manz noted that the STEAM program continues to evolve and looks for additional business partnerships to connect students with real-world problem-solving scenarios.

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copey announced updates in regard to the county's summer educator program. Formerly known as Teacher Boot Camp, the initiative will now be called the Career Connection Educator Day Camp. Educators will have the option to register for a single day focused on math, science, social studies, arts/specials, or ELA career connections, or attend the full week to earn CEU credit.

Representatives from NSCC and Rhodes State explained upcoming adult and school-aged student learning events that are coming up at their respective schools.

Looking ahead, the BAC discussed several major events planned for 2026, including:

- County Career Day on April 9 at the Paulding County Fairgrounds
- Business displays at the

Paulding County Fair in June

- Build Your Future skills development event that will be held in partnership with Vantage Career Center at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds in September

These initiatives reflect the BAC's continued commitment to strengthening the county's talent pipeline and creating meaningful connections between students, educators, and employers.

For more information about the Paulding County BAC or to get involved, please contact the Paulding County Economic Development office.

## METAL ORGANIC FRAMEWORKS

A new innovation called metal organic frame works (MOF) may soon effect agriculture. MOF's are very small organic (carbon) molecules with a metal bridge. They are quite small but have a tremendous amount of pore space. For example, a few grams (454 grams per pound) can have the surface area of an entire football field. The MOF's have layers of single metal atoms that attach to the carbon to form porous sheets that fold upon themselves in a ball. This increased porosity can be used for a number of technological uses, some in agriculture, others in electronics, and even medicine.

For example, about 1.8 billion people are in need of water throughout the world. Dr. Omar Yaghi researched and made a MOF-5 compound that contains zinc. Zinc connects many folds of carbon together in a small ball with high porosity. Dr Yaghi got the 2025 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for this discovery and technically invention. These synthetic crystal substances do not exist in nature and need to be manufactured.

What does MOF-5 (Zinc) do? Dr. Yaghi formed a sheet of MOF-5 compounds into a box and placed it in the desert. He added an intake fan to move desert air across the MOF films. The MOF-5 reacts with the hot desert air that contains 10% to 30% humidity. Generally, this moisture is not available. In the MOF-5 box, the humidity or air water vapor reacts with the MOF-5 box. First it forms a mist, a fog that thickens, droplets form, and then a puddle of water begins to collect in the bottom of the box. Dr. Yaghi won a Nobel Prize in Chemistry (2025) for this invention which can help supply clean water in hot desert areas to both humans, animals, and depending upon scale, possibly plants.

Considering that fresh water is one of most limiting nutrients for any organisms survival, this is a great achievement. Fresh water makes up less than 3% of total water supplies on earth. In Cape Town, South Africa; the inhabitants were so low on water last year that they were just one day away from Day Zero, the day water runs out. What about for desalination (taking salt out of salt water)? MOF-303 and MOF-808 have superior permeability and can remove 100% of the salt ions in salt water to obtain fresh water when used with reverse osmosis or solar driven distillation systems using salt water.

There are many metal ions that can be used to form MOF's for many different uses. However, some are more toxic than others. In descending order, from least toxic to more toxic; these metals include aluminum, zinc, iron, cobalt, chromium, manganese, and copper. What else can MOF's do?

Some MOF's can store hydrogen. Hydrogen (H) is a valuable fuel (used to propel space vehicles) that can even be made from water (H<sub>2</sub>O). Imagine all the fuel that can be made from ocean water? It's a renewable source of fuel and it's a non-pollutant. MOF's are being developed (MOF NU-2100) to store hydrogen due to their vast interior storage areas. Safer and lighter than compressed H, it is a solid-state form of H. MOF (HKUST-1, MOF-177, Nu-111) are even being used to take up and store methane and natural gas for fuel. All these MOF's offer cheaper and safer storage options than conventional methods.

MOF's can also be used in wastewater and waste management. Depending upon the material used and the type of waste water, MOF's can be used to create clean water. Grey water (bath water, dishwashers, laundry) water can easily be converted back to fresh water using MOF technology. Even black water (sewage) can use MOF's but the process is more difficult due to higher percentage of various solids.

Another way to use MOF's is for storing carbon dioxide gas and for carbon capture. These carbon MOF-DC's are energy efficient ways to capture carbon dioxide from gas flues and emissions. They can also be used in batteries and as catalyst. Carbon MOF's may help with climate change and carbon sequestration. I prefer the term carbon recycling rather than long-term carbon sequestration (long-term carbon tie up).

There will be many uses for MOF's in the future. Current research is even using non-toxic MOF's to deliver medicine to treat cancer to specific tissues in the body. A targeted approach, it shows promise as a way to treat some diseases and cancers at a very local level without harming the nearby tissue. Currently, Europe is the leader in the MOF technology, but the USA is starting to take notice. The MOF market is projected to be \$3 billion by 2034.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

*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.*

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### God's Warriors

Recently I was reminded of an article I once read in a newsletter from St. Jude's. It was from a man whose wife had once been a patient of St. Jude's when she was a younger girl. The main point he said was "God uses His greatest warriors for His most important battles." Isn't that true? Why does God allow cancer to babies and young children? When I see a St. Jude story on TV my heart aches and I am then thankful no one in my immediate family has had to confront that issue, but aren't those little ones "God's greatest warriors"?

It seems that God has always chosen common lowly people to help. David was a shepherd, Daniel was only 16, many of the Apostles were fishermen. Mary was an unwed girl. What did they have in common? Faith, obedience and an attitude of "What will you have me do Lord?" All of God's warriors were chosen, not for their position in society, not for their intellect, but because they trusted their God and listened to his calm, still voice and said "Send me, I'll go." Remember if God wants you to do something

## 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.*

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you or forsake you?  
As I look back, maybe I could have listened and obeyed more. But I will always feel he was there for me to help me get through the valleys. Young people, trust God, put your faith in Him. Obey his plans for your life. Be a warrior for God. He will reward you in this life and the one to come.

—Dave Laukuf  
Paulding, OH

**LOGICAL PROOF FOR GOD**

Firstly, we must understand that physical science is the lowest form of knowledge. Not in an insulting way, but that it comes after prior conditions are met. So the common quip of the uneducated atheist demanding evidence for God is a meaningless statement as evidence, meaning physical or chemical proof, is interpreted within a paradigm, that is to say through these prior conditions.

These prior conditions that make up a paradigm are

metaphysics (what exists), epistemology (what is true), and ethics (what ought to be). Each of these are distinct, but also flow into one another: truth (epistemology) exists (metaphysics) and it ought (ethics) to be followed as opposed to what is not true. Prior to even these conditions is knowledge and telos (or purpose). Knowledge must exist. To say knowledge doesn't exist is a contradiction (because you assume you have knowledge that knowledge doesn't exist). All these presuppositions that I've so far listed are universal by nature (metaphysics meaning beyond or above the physical). Universal, meaning they are everywhere at all times. Denying universality by means of materialism or empiricism is impossible. By making any truth statement even a negative state like universals don't exist is a contradiction because you named a universal state of affairs in that universals don't exist everywhere and at all times.

Universality also applies to the laws of logic: non-contradiction, excluded middle, and identity. These laws must be universal else they merely become opinion. If we are free to contradict, then words can have any meaning they want. This would be a disaster for communicating ideas and learning.

Finally, let's define telos. Without telos (meaning), conveying meaning via words or even acknowledging any of these presuppositions is meaningless. This applies to all things. If our cosmology begins as a cosmic accident (big bang) then logically everything that comes from that beginning point is an ac-

cident and thus has no purpose and anything we perceive to be purposeful, even the very words we speak and lives we live, are mere chemical accidents. Thus an atheist trying to convince you that atheism is true is actually being a bad atheist by giving into delusions that what is being done has any impact. A true atheist ought to simply exist in their meaningless life and let everyone else live in their own meaningless life. Proselytizing atheism as true means nothing since truth itself is a delusion of the finite mind.

None of this has yet proven God, but it was necessary to define terms as our public schools have gotten so out of hand they can barely teach basic math and English. We've so far established: categories of existence, knowledge, and telos. Although it's possible to deny existence itself and to come up with alternative scenarios like: dream reality, matrix, or emanations, but ultimately they are either unfalsifiable or unknowable (determinism). Of course, humans started to exist which should suddenly limit our universality. Therefore the universe existed before humans. Did knowledge exist before humans? Yes, for existence to be true or real, it requires knowledge of real versus not real existence, so knowledge is also prior to humans. A similar style argument works for telos as well. The only factor that seems unable to actually have justified true belief (JTB) is humans, but that will be addressed later.

So we have these presuppositions existing with the beginning of the universe, but even with telos, that doesn't necessarily bind all the others together. That is where personhood comes in. The agent or person is what gives intention to these things. We are born as persons with a human nature (mode of existence) and human energies (projection out to the world). These are reflections of God in Orthodox theology. God is three persons sharing the divine essence and energies (recall apophatic and kataphatic theology for understanding nature and energy). But I'm getting ahead of myself.

So there must be a transcendent person beyond the universe and beyond all these categories. He binds them to his willing, as our person relates to His person. This person would also possess a divine mind which satisfies knowledge's need for a

knower and existence's need for a creator. Now we can see how humans can have assured access to these things as well. We too are persons and through our personhood we relate to the divine person of the Creator, although not in an exhaustive sense due to our created ontology.

Finally if this God is truly personal it wouldn't just be an abstract person only found in our reasoning ability, but a revealed God who appears and condescends to us in our sensibilities. Meaning He would appear, walk, speak, eat, and give knowledge and ethics to live by. This is now satisfied in the narrative of the Bible. God appears to specific people at specific times for specific reasons. As an aside there's a common gripe about why God didn't appear to X people group. That would diminish the perfect personal relationship of God with humanity. As I said before He's not a generic God, but a specific One. So God has appeared and revealed Himself to us multiple times in the Old Testament (these are called Theophanies). His greatest revelation is the incarnation: taking on full humanity in order to restore us and allow us to live eternally with Him. How could He as God take on full humanity without diminishing His Divinity? By means of His person, the person of the Son. (Note: the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are each persons. This explains the satisfaction of the existence of God before creation, meaning God didn't need to create, but did so as an outpouring of His goodness (I can provide a point by point logical explanation for the Trinity for those interested)) The Son through His person took upon human nature and joined it to the Divine nature in a perfect union - unmixed, yet inseparable, and still distinct natures. Therefore all these universal categories can be accessed by our minds logically and also we can fully commune with God through the person of Christ. All we have to do is follow His commandments as He says in the Bible: 'if ye love Me, keep My commandments.' John 14:15.

That is the logical explanation for the Christian God.

—Joel Steiner  
Antwerp, OH

**YOUR CREDIT SCORE MATTERS MORE THAN YOU MAY THINK**

Your credit score can play a surprisingly big role in your financial life. From renting an apartment to getting a cell-phone plan, your credit score can open doors or close them.

Your credit score predicts how likely you are to pay bills on time. Lenders, landlords and even some employers use this number to evaluate how responsible you appear to be. A higher score signals that you're reliable with money, which can lead to lower interest rates on loans, better insurance premiums and easier access to credit. Some service providers may even waive security deposits if you have a strong score.

The most common credit scoring system is the FICO score, ranging from 300 to 850. A score above 670 is considered good, while anything above 740 is very good and above 800 is exceptional. Most scoring models look at similar factors, with payment history the most important. Making payments on time accounts for 35% of your FICO score, so even one late payment can hurt you.

The second biggest factor is credit utilization, for 30% of your score. This measures how much credit you're using compared to your total available credit. Try to keep this below 30%. Other factors include the length of your credit history (15%), new credit applications (10%) and your mix of different credit types (10%).

It's much easier to maintain a good credit score than to rebuild one after it drops. A single missed payment can stay on your report for seven years, dragging down your score and making it harder to qualify for loans or favorable interest rates. Prevention is far simpler than repair.

If you're looking to im-

prove your score, start with the basics. Pay all your bills on time by setting up automatic payments or reminders. Keep your credit card balances low and pay them off in full when possible. Avoid applying for new credit too often, as each application can temporarily lower your score.

A Chapter 7 or Chapter 13 bankruptcy filing can drop your FICO score up to 200 points. For unpaid taxes, the IRS can report tax liens to your credit report.

Those just starting to build credit might consider applying for a secured credit card or becoming an authorized user on a family member's account. Some services will even report your rent and utility payments to credit bureaus, helping you establish a positive history.

You can check your credit report for free once a year from each of the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) through annualcreditreport.com, a site they jointly operate. Many banks also offer free credit monitoring. Review your reports regularly to catch errors and track your progress.

Taking control of your credit score is an investment in your financial future. If you need some guidance to help you build or maintain your credit score, a financial advisor can be a great resource. After all, the habits you establish today will make borrowing easier and less expensive tomorrow, giving you more flexibility to pursue your goals.

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

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# ANTWERP WRESTLERS COMPETE AT ADA & GIBSONBURG INVITATIONALS



Keegan Gray-Wyckoff finished in 5th at Ada.



Maddilan Doster and Camryn McAlexander crowned the podium in their respective weight divisions at Gibsonburg Invitational

ADA - The Antwerp boys high school wrestling team competed at the Ada Invitational on Saturday, February 7, turning in several strong individual performances against a competi-

Keegan Gray-Wyckoff led the way for the Archers with a fifth-place finish, compiling a 4-2 record on the day. Gray-Wyckoff was dominant in his victories, record-

ing four pins in the tournament. Landon Orozco battled through the bracket to earn an eighth-place finish, going 2-3 with one pin. Griffin Kosch also represented Antwerp and finished 0-2.

On Sunday, the Antwerp girls high school wrestling team traveled to the Gibsonburg Invitational and came away with two individual champions. Camryn McAlexander captured first place in her weight class with a perfect 3-0 record, securing all three wins by pin. Maddilan Doster also stood atop the podium, going 4-0 with four pins to claim her championship.

Kaira Jones placed sixth with a 1-3 record, earning one pin during the tournament. Haylee Lingenfelter and Aleta Sorrell each went 0-2, while Teagen Eaton also finished 0-2.

The weekend provided

valuable mat experience for Antwerp as both the boys and girls teams continue preparing for postseason competition.

## EDON PULLS AWAY FROM ANTWERP IN CONTEST

EDON - The Antwerp Archers battled throughout but couldn't overcome a strong start by Edon, falling 55-45 on Friday, February 7.

Edon set the tone early, jumping out to a 16-11 lead after the first quarter. The Bombers tightened their defense in the second period, holding Antwerp to just five points while adding nine of their own to take a 25-16 advantage into halftime.

Antwerp responded in the third quarter, outscoring Edon 13-12 to cut into the deficit. The Archers carried that momentum into the final frame, putting up 16 fourth-quarter points. However, Edon matched the effort with 18 points down the stretch to secure the 10-point victory.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp with 19 points, connecting from both inside and beyond the arc. Brayden Fuller added nine points, while Weston Rhonehouse finished with seven. Noah Lucas contributed five points, Lincoln Lucas added three, and Hampton Rogge chipped in two to round out the Archers' scoring.

Edon was paced by Briggs Gallehue's 18 points and Corbin Chrisman's 17. Kadin Stantz added nine, Kendol Brigle scored six, and Lincoln Kiess finished with five as the Bombers improved to 13-7 on the season.

# PANTHERS DOMINATE COUNTY WRESTLING MEET AT THE JUNGLE



Paulding's Hunter Webb and Wayne Trace's Ben Gurney face off at the beginning of the first period with Webb getting the takedown, and Gurney ultimately winning this competitive match. Pictures of all three schools' wrestlers at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING - The Jungle was the site of a busy night of high school wrestling on Thursday, February 12, as Paulding hosted the county meet featuring Antwerp and Wayne Trace. The Panthers put together a dominant showing on their home mats, while individual wrestlers from all three schools turned in strong performances.

Paulding's boys' and girls' varsity squads earned convincing dual victories, defeating Wayne Trace 66-18 and Antwerp 60-21. Several Panthers went undefeated on the night, highlighted by Jezaih Seba Fuentes, who finished a perfect 4-0. Civil Pumphrey, Nico Moreno, Landon Shartzter, Leonel Reyes, Adan Zacarias, Landon Dasher, and Miguel Martinez each posted 2-0 records. Stroker Etter, Jimmy Gonzales, Ivan Martinez, and Izaac Coutts also remained unbeaten in limited matches.

On the girls' side for Wayne Trace, the Lady Raiders claimed a 20-12 victory over Paulding. Karysn

Troth recorded a pin against Antwerp, while Katelynn Bauer and MaKenna Schilt each earned wins in both duals. Bauer secured pins in both matches, and Schilt added a pin against Paulding after earning an 11-6 decision earlier in the evening. Aries Ricker also contributed a pin in Wayne Trace's win over Paulding. In junior high action, Zoey Schnipke captured a technical fall victory over Paulding.

Paulding's individual results included Camryn McAlexander (2-0, 1 pin), Teagen Eaton (2-0), Braxton Peters (2-0), Zac Salas (2-0, 1 pin), Landon Orozco (2-0), and Keegan Gray-Wyckoff (2-0, 1 pin). Kaira Jones went 1-1 with a pin. Haylee Lingenfelter, Aleta Sorrell, Griffin Kosch, and Gage Clevinger competed hard despite falling short in their matches.

With strong performances across the board, the county meet showcased the depth of wrestling talent in Paulding County, as teams continue to build momentum heading into the postseason.

## WAYNE TRACE LADY WRESTLERS COMPETE AT 4th ANNUAL GOLDEN BEAR HAMMER TOURNAMENT



Zoey Schnipke finished at 4th place in the 142lb weight class. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Kaitlynn Bauer finished at 4th in the 135lb weight class. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Wayne Trace Lady Wrestlers traveled to Gibsonburg on February 8 to compete in the 4th Annual Golden Bear Hammer Tournament, bringing three varsity athletes and one junior high competi-

tor. Junior High Division Zoey Schnipke captured the championship in the 142-pound weight class. With low numbers in the 134-pound division, Schnipke bumped up and dominated at 142. After receiving a

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first-round bye, she pinned Mast of Defiance in just 1:15. She secured the title with another pin, defeating Zenor of Arcadia in 2:09.

Antwerp and was later defeated by Scherger of Woodmore by pin in 2:34. She battled back in the placement round, pinning Brown of Montpelier in 4:02 to earn a fifth-place finish.

155 Pounds - Aries Ricker dropped her opening match to Rollison of Sandusky by pin in 53 seconds. She advanced through the consolation bracket with a 1:23 pin over Escobar of Upper Sandusky. In the consolation semifinals, Ricker fell to Roldan of Sandusky by pin in 2:39 and later to Schaffer of River Valley in 4:05, finishing in sixth place.

A strong showing overall for the Wayne Trace Lady Wrestlers as they continue their season.

went 2-2 at 132 pounds, while Seth Rosswurm finished 0-2 at 138. Nathan Benschneider posted a 1-2 record at 150 pounds, and Waylon McCord added a 1-2 mark at 190. The team continues to show growth and resilience as the season progresses, and the Raiders look ahead with confidence as competition continues.

**GREEN MEADOWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED SCHOLAR ATHLETES**

The Green Meadows Conference is proud to announce the "Scholar Athletes" for the winter of 2026.

To be eligible for this honor, the athlete must be a senior, participate and letter in a recognized sport or cheerleading and have a 3.5 GPA or better after 7 semesters.

**ANTWERP:**

Raelynne Zuber, Hampton Rogge, Corbin Sargent, Griffin Kosch, Kalli Billman, Miley Jewell, Zaine McMichael, Lyla Clem

**AYERSVILLE:**

Eli Berner, Ariel Brown, Allyssa Coble, Allison Eldridge, Alexa Greve, Ryan Johnson, Avery Jones, Levi McConnell, Gabriella Miles, Jada Rau, Kali Sprow, Kendra Waldron

**EDGERTON:**

Bradley Everetts, Jackson Flower, Alivia Farnham, Caden Sinclair, Parker Elden, Kyli Hazelton, Jaden Dietsch, Ava Swank, Orlando Puente

**FAIRVIEW:**

Aubrey Hammer, William Zeedyk, Althea Spangler, Levi Panico

**HICKSVILLE:**

Kennedy Adams, Addison Sanders, Luke Eicher, Jesus Avalos, Garrett Turnbull, Natalie Sarchet, Cross Zeedyk

**PAULDING:**

Grady Barton, Addison Pease, Makayla Carr, Izaak Coutts, Adan Zacarias

**TINORA:**

Abby Bacon, Emma Sheets, Christina Meyer, Kate Zimmerman, Lukas Bennett, Harley Gill, Brock Bailey, Bella Graziani, Addilyn Delarber, Ava Steffel, Madeline Westhoven, Paige Gamby, Alesha Scott

**WAYNE TRACE:**

Addison Stoller, Caitlyn Mead, Lexi Moore, Griffin Williamson, Whitney Boroff, Myleigh Sheets, Emma Stouffer

**ANTWERP FALLS TO PETTISVILLE IN ROAD CONTEST**

PETTISVILLE - The Antwerp Lady Archers struggled to find their rhythm early and were unable to overcome a first-quarter deficit in a 34-28 loss to Pettisville on February 10.

Antwerp (7-15) was held scoreless in the opening quarter as Pettisville built a 10-0 lead. The Archers found their footing in the second period, limiting the Blackbirds to seven points while scoring seven of their own to trail 17-7 at halftime.

The third quarter proved to be Antwerp's strongest stretch. The Archers erupted for 13 points while holding Pettisville to just six, cutting the deficit to 23-20 heading into the final frame. However, Pettisville responded with 11 fourth-quarter points to hold off the come-

back attempt and secure the six-point victory.

Eliana Hormann led Antwerp with 14 points, providing a spark offensively throughout the contest. Briley Bagley added five points, while Clara Rohrs and Raelley Franklin each contributed two. Avery Honigford and Aliyah Friend also chipped in for the Archers.

Pettisville (9-12) was paced by Becca Strauss with 11 points and Ashalyn Rice with 10. Madison Miller added seven points, while Brynn Schwartz, Addison Davis, and Evelyn Bieber each contributed to the balanced scoring effort.

Despite the slow start, Antwerp's strong third quarter kept the game competitive, but Pettisville's early advantage proved to be the difference in the 34-28 final.

**LADY PANTHERS POUNCE AT TWO WRESTLING TOURNAMENTS**

Two weekends ago, February 7th & 8th, Paulding Girls Wrestling participated in two tournaments.

On Saturday February 7th, the Lady Panthers competed at the McCumber invitational. Mimmy Omonayin had an impressive second place finish and Civil Pumphrey pinned her way through her bracket taking first place.

On Sunday, February 8th, they competed at the Port Clinton Invitational. Civil Pumphrey had another great tournament placing first. Mimmy Omonayin and Harley Troyer had solid performances as they both placed 6th.

**THREE RAIDERS PLACE AT CAREY CLASSIC**



Raider Sophomore Dylan Hershberger earned the 4th place spot on the podium at the Carey Classic on February 7th. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Wayne Trace varsity wrestling team traveled to Carey High School on February 7, 2026, to compete in the annual Carey Classic. Of the seven Raiders who took the mat, three earned spots on the podium.

Freshman Brandon Hire turned in an impressive performance in the 113-pound weight class, finishing as tournament Runner-Up. Hire opened his day with a dominant tech fall over Smith (Lakota), 19-3. After a bye, he repeated the feat with another 19-3 tech fall against Shank (Calvert). In the semifinals, Hire edged Henney (Columbian) in a tight 6-5 decision. He ultimately fell in the championship bout to Fabrizio (Calvert), finishing second overall.

Junior Colton Kimmel also claimed a Runner-Up finish, competing in the 120-pound division. Kimmel started fast, pinning Holly (Gibsonburg) in just 1:05. He dropped a close overtime match to

Brubaker (Findlay), 3-0, but battled back with a pair of quick pins—Jacobus (Calvert) in 43 seconds and Giesige (Patrick Henry) in 1:56. Kimmel advanced to the finals, where he fell to Montgomery (Carey), 17-0, securing second place.

Sophomore Dylan Hershberger earned a 4th-place finish at 165 pounds. After being pinned by Koch (New London) in 2:28, Hershberger rebounded with a pin over Atkins (Carey) in 3:52. He was later pinned by Baker (Findlay) in 1:38 but responded with another fall, pinning James (Patrick Henry) in 3:53. In the placement match, Hershberger dropped a bout to Trice (Findlay) by pin in 2:23.

Other Wayne Trace competitors included Benjamin Gurney (2-3), Camden Kimmel (1-3), Evan Benschneider (0-5), and Seth Rosswurm (1-3).

The Raiders return to action at the GMC Championships on February 21.

**RAIDER WRESTLERS EARN TWO PLACEMENTS AT LCC THUNDERBIRD INVITATIONAL**



Brandon Hire finished 8th on the day in the 113lb weight class. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

The Raider wrestling team delivered a solid performance at the Lima Central Catholic Thunderbird Invitational on January 30-31, with two athletes finishing inside the top eight. Junior Colton Kimmel led the way at 120 pounds, opening his tournament with a bye before pinning Adney Pasma of Elgin in 5:05. After a quarterfinal loss to Waynedale's Brock Beckler, Kimmel battled back with a dominant 19-2 tech fall over Aidyn Moxley of West Liberty-Salem. He closed out his day by pinning Cory-Rawson's Hayden Walters in 4:46 to secure a seventh-place finish.

Freshman Brandon Hire also earned a placement, finishing eighth at 113 pounds. Hire began with a bye before being pinned by Sam Million of Preble Shawnee in the championship bracket. He responded with determination in the consolation rounds, defeating Donovan Bastian of Carlisle 12-2 and edging Crestview's Grant Grubb in a triple-overtime thriller, 4-3. Hire later fell to Kenneth McGregor of Ashland Crestview and to Bryce Ruch of Woodmore in the placement match.

Several additional Raiders contributed competitive efforts throughout the tournament. Ben Gurney

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# THE LEFT TURN



World of Outlaws will return to Attica Raceway Park twice in 2026 Action Photos Ohio.

By: Ron Burt

The sun has been out, and the temperature has started to rise and in just a few weeks daylight savings time will start. We're in Ohio, and we all know more snow and cold weather will be back. We can all daydream and look forward to Friday, March 13th. Attica Raceway Park in Tiffin will be the first area racetrack to open in the 2026 season. In recent history the track does battle mother nature, and we have seen cancelations in the past years, but if you're missing watching drivers make fast left-turns, dress like you're attending a November football game. I have listed some of the tracks bigger nights off this years schedule.

Opening night at Attica will feature the lightning fast 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints, UMP Dirt Late Models and the very popular and competitive 305 Winged Sprints. The tracks first big event will be Friday and Saturday April 10th & 11th when the All Star Circuit of Champion Sprints invades the famous dirt oval for the Core & Main Spring Nationals. Friday's feature will pay the winning driver \$5,000.00 and Saturday will pay \$7,500.00 to win.

Friday, June 12th, Attica Raceway Park will host their night of Ohio Speedway for the All Star Circuit of Champions Sprints. The winner will get \$7,500.00. The Dirt UMP Late Models will be the support class and some of us older fans will enjoy the Vintage

cars on display and hopefully on the track.

The World of Outlaws will have two big nights in 2026. Friday, May 1st. will be their first stop with the drivers all chasing \$12,000.00 to win, and the 305 Sprints will be the support group. The Brad Doty Classic will be held on Friday, July 14th and the payout for the winner has been raised to \$20,000.00. It's also the last tune-up before all the top drivers travel to Eldora for the annual Kings Royal.

September 4th is the annual Attica Ambush, and the track is offering free camping. The All Star Sprints and the American Iron Man Late Model Series will headline the evening. Attica will wrap up the season Friday, September 11th with the 2026 Track Championship night.

Many of our area dirt and pavement racetracks have their schedules on Facebook or their web page and most can be downloaded. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

(www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

## WAYNE TRACE FINISHES STRONG TO DEFEAT LIMA SENIOR

LIMA - The Wayne Trace Lady Raiders used a dominant fourth quarter to secure a 45-39 victory over Lima Senior on February 12, improving to 17-5 on the season.

Lima Senior came out firing in the opening quarter,

building a 16-6 lead after one. Wayne Trace answered in the second period, holding the Spartans to just four points while scoring 12 to cut the halftime deficit to 20-18.

The two teams battled through a competitive third quarter, with Lima Senior edging Wayne Trace 13-12 to take a 33-30 advantage into the final frame. The Raiders saved their best for last, outscoring the Spartans 15-6 in the fourth quarter to complete the comeback.

Lexi Moore led Wayne Trace with 18 points, going 12-of-15 from the free throw line and grabbing 10 rebounds in a strong all-around performance. Amber Stoller added 11 points and five steals, while Caren Winans contributed nine points. Kinlee Miller chipped in three to round out the scoring.

Caroline Winans controlled the boards with six defensive rebounds and added four assists. The Raiders were aggressive at the free throw line, converting 20-of-25 attempts as a team.

Lima Senior (10-10) was led by Khaliah Luster with 19 points. Jaslynn Ingram added seven, and Michaela Bean finished with six in the loss.

Wayne Trace's balanced effort and late defensive stand proved to be the difference in the six-point road win. There was no junior varsity contest.

## CRESTVIEW PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT WAYNE TRACE



Senior Lexi More is fouled on the shot. She gets to the line and adds another point to Raider side of the score! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

HAVILAND - The Wayne Trace Lady Raiders battled throughout but a strong fourth quarter from Crestview lifted the Lady Knights to a 43-37 victory on Tuesday, February 10 at The Palace.

Crestview jumped out to a 7-2 lead after the opening quarter, but Wayne Trace responded in the second. The Lady Raiders outscored the Knights 13-9 in the period to trim the halftime deficit to 16-15. Both teams matched each other with nine points apiece in the third quarter, keeping the game within reach heading into the final eight minutes.

The decisive stretch came in the fourth quarter when

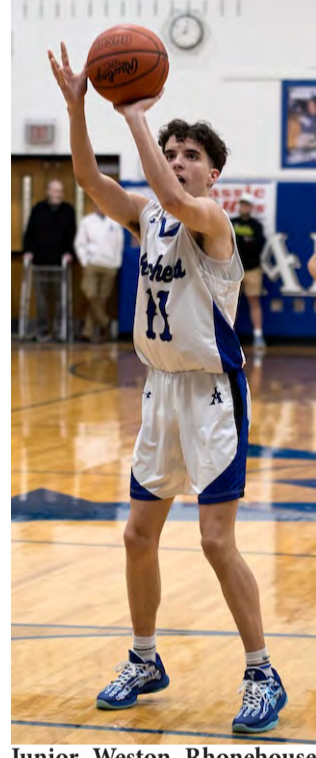
Crestview poured in 18 points while holding Wayne Trace to 13, creating enough separation to secure the six-point win.

Lexi Moore led the Lady Raiders with 15 points, connecting on four field goals and going 7-of-7 from the free throw line. Caroline Winans added nine points, including a three-pointer, while Caren Winans chipped in seven. Amber Stoller finished with six points to round out Wayne Trace's scoring.

Crestview was paced by Kaci Gregory, who poured in a game-high 27 points, including four three-pointers and a 7-of-8 effort at the foul line. Lydia Grace added four points, Lilly Best contributed five, and Haley McCoy finished with three as the Knights balanced their attack behind Gregory's big night.

Wayne Trace falls to 16-5 on the season, while Crestview improves to 11-9. In junior varsity action, Crestview defeated Wayne Trace 44-17.

## PILOTS SOAR PAST ARCHERS



Junior Weston Rhonehouse is fouled, sent to the line and scores for the Archers! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

ANTWERP - The Ayersville Pilots built an early lead and never looked back Friday night, defeating the Antwerp Archers 56-41 at The Range on February 6.

Ayersville came out sharp in the opening quarter, taking a 15-6 advantage after one. The Pilots continued to apply pressure in the second period, outscoring Antwerp 18-6 to carry a commanding 33-12 lead into halftime.

The Archers showed fight coming out of the locker room, putting together a much stronger third quarter offensively. However, Ayersville matched the effort with 18 points of its own in the frame to maintain control, 51-27, heading into the final eight minutes. Antwerp closed the game on a positive note, winning the fourth quarter 14-5, but the early deficit proved too much to overcome.

Ewers led all scorers with 21 points for the Pilots, while Peake added 19 in a strong one-two punch. Lloyd chipped in six points, E. Wolfrum scored five, Dunn added three, and G. Wolfrum finished with two to round out Ayersville's scoring.

For Antwerp, Zaine McMichael paced the Archers with 21 points. Weston Rhonehouse added 10 points,

Hampton Rogge contributed five, Brayden Fuller scored three, and Corbin Sargent finished with two.

Despite the fourth-quarter

push, the Archers were unable to recover from Ayersville's dominant first half, as the Pilots secured the 56-41 road victory.

# PANTHERS HOLD OFF PARKWAY IN THRILLER MATCH UP



Paulding Senior Addison Pease, though heavily guarded, launches the ball for 3 points on the Panther side. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING - In a tightly contested battle at The Jungle on Tuesday, February 10, the Paulding Lady Panthers edged Parkway 33-30 in a game that came down to the final possessions.

Paulding leaned on balanced scoring and timely shooting to secure the narrow victory.

Estie Pease led the Panthers with nine points, knocking down three shots from beyond the arc to spark the offense. Kayleigh Dunham followed with seven points. Tori Schlatter and Addi Pease

added six points each, both connecting inside and Schlatter converting at the free-throw line, to provide an important scoring boost. Adriana Mead chipped in five points, including a perfect trip to the foul line.

The Panthers connected on five three-pointers as a team and went 4-for-7 from the free-throw line. Defensively, Paulding limited Parkway's opportunities down the stretch, holding firm in the closing minutes to preserve the three-point advantage.

## LINCOLNVIEW PULLS AWAY IN SECOND HALF TO TOP PAULDING

VAN WERT - A strong third quarter and balanced scoring lifted Lincolnview to a 62-52 victory over Paulding on Friday, February 7.

The Panthers (15-4) kept pace early, trailing just 16-12 after the first quarter. Both teams traded baskets in the second period, each scoring 11 points to send Lincolnview

into halftime with a 27-23 edge.

Lincolnview (16-4) created separation in the third quarter, outscoring Paulding 15-9 to build a 42-32 advantage heading into the final frame. Both squads poured in 20 points in the fourth quarter, but the Lancers' earlier run proved to be the difference in the 10-point contest.

Blake Rhonehouse led Paulding with 18 points, knocking down four three-

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Lincolnview was led by Max Hammons' 23-point performance, which included three three-pointers and a 6-for-6 effort at the free throw line. Marshall Hammons added 12 points, Zander Coil chipped in 11, and Gavin Evans scored 10. Chayse Overholt and Grant Zielke also contributed to the Lancers' balanced attack.

Despite matching Lincolnview in the fourth quarter, Paulding was unable to overcome the decisive third-quarter surge as the Lancers protected their home floor.

### WAYNE TRACE ROLLS PAST EDGERTON ON THE ROAD

EDGERTON - Wayne Trace put together one of its most complete performances of the season Thursday night, cruising past Edgerton 68-42 in a Green Meadows Conference matchup on February 6.

The Raiders (12-7, 5-1 GMC) wasted little time setting the tone, exploding for 20 first-quarter points while holding Edgerton to just five. Wayne Trace continued to control the tempo in the second quarter, taking a 31-14 lead into halftime.

The game was effectively decided in the third quarter as the Raiders poured in 26 points, stretching the advantage to 57-26 heading into the final frame. Both teams scored 11 points in the fourth quarter, but Wayne Trace's earlier surge proved more than enough in the 26-point victory.

Carter Clemens led the Raiders with 16 points, while Lance Maenle added 14 in a balanced scoring effort. Zach Stoller finished with 11 points, Micah Sinn chipped in nine, and Blake Noggle added eight. Tanner Laukhuf contributed five points, Caden Sinn scored three, and Easton Jay added two as Wayne Trace showcased depth throughout the lineup.

The Raiders were efficient offensively, knocking down 15 two-point field goals and seven three-pointers, while converting 17-of-23 attempts from the free throw line. Wayne Trace also controlled the glass and moved the ball

well, finishing with 14 assists. Edgerton (9-11, 2-4 GMC) was led by Kellen Sanchez with 15 points and Myles Baker with 11. Maddox Baker added seven points, while Parker Elden and Jacob Steffes chipped in five and three points respectively.

In junior varsity action, Wayne Trace also earned a convincing win, defeating Edgerton 53-17.

### WAYNE TRACE DEFEATS DELPHOS JEFFERSON

HAVILAND - Wayne Trace used a strong first half and balanced scoring to secure a 68-51 victory over Delphos Jefferson on Friday, February 7 at The Palace.

The Raiders (13-7) came out aggressive, building a 21-12 lead after the opening quarter. Wayne Trace continued to push the tempo in the second period, outscoring the Wildcats 22-21 to take a 43-33 advantage into halftime.

After the break, the Raiders' defense tightened up. Wayne Trace limited Delphos Jefferson to just eight third-quarter points while adding 11 of its own to stretch the lead to 54-41. Both teams scored in double figures in the final frame, but the Raiders maintained control to close out the 17-point win.

Carter Clemens led Wayne Trace with 21 points, connecting from inside and at the free-throw line. Caden Sinn added 14 points, including four three-pointers. Tanner Laukhuf and Lance Maenle each contributed 10 points to give the Raiders four players in double figures. Zach Stoller chipped in six points, Micah Sinn added three, Easton Jay finished with two, and Blake Noggle rounded out the scoring.

Wayne Trace shot efficiently throughout the night, knocking down nine three-pointers and converting 9-of-11 attempts from the free throw line. The Raiders also shared the ball well, finishing with 12 assists as a team.

Delphos Jefferson (7-12) was led by Gavin Howell's 21-point performance. Jace Harter added 12 points, while Isaac Rostorfer contributed six. Kellen Carder chipped in four as the Wildcats were unable to overcome Wayne Trace's fast start.

In junior varsity action, Wayne Trace earned a 38-27 victory over Delphos Jefferson.

### ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS



On February 1 a theft was reported from a juvenile. The officer responded and investigated the situation.

On February 1 a gas drive-off was reported at one of the local stations. The officer located the individual, and the individual returned and paid for the gas.

On February 2 Antwerp Police Department responded to a 911 hang-up call on Buffalo St. An officer responded and determined everything was okay.

On February 4 an officer was called to a residence in reference to a child custody issue.

On February 4 a motor vehicle accident was reported on Oak St. The officer investigated and located the vehicle involved in the accident.

On February 4 a residence of Washington St. requested an officer to assist in getting people into her home. The officer responded.

On February 5 the Fulton County Sheriff contacted the police department in reference to an individual that lives in the village.

On February 8 Antwerp Police Department was called to Antwerp School to unlock a vehicle. The vehicle was unlocked.

On February 8 a residence of Washington reported being scammed on Facebook. They attempted to purchase an animal, then were contacted to pay more money to have the animal shipped. It was determined to be a scam.

On February 9 Antwerp Police Department assisted Antwerp EMS at the North Garden Apartments.

On February 9 Antwerp Police Department assisted Antwerp EMS at Antwerp Manor.

On February 9 Antwerp Police Department was called to Park Avenue Villas in reference to someone who had moved into an apartment without signing the lease agreement.

On February 9 an officer responded to an alarm at a business on Erie St. The officer determined everything was okay.

On February 10 an alarm was received from a business on Erie St. An officer responded and determined everything was ok.

On February 11 a residence of Woodcox St. had backed into and knocked over their mailbox. An officer responded, prepared a report, and is investigating the situation.

On February 11 an officer responded to a business on Main St. and recovered a knife lying outside.

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

### PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

**Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report**  
**Aaron W. Moore** of Cecil, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Moore was sentenced to 180 days in jail with 170 days suspended and received an operator's license suspension from August 23, 2025, through August 23, 2026. Special conditions include withdrawal of a motion to suppress and eligibility for work release after three days of mandatory jail time.

**Anthony A. Schroeder** of Hicksville, Ohio, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Kyle R. Hicks** of Paulding, Ohio, had a charge of disorderly conduct dismissed with prejudice. Court costs of \$140 were paid by the defendant.

**Alayah J. Cosme** of New Haven, Indiana, was convicted of criminal mischief. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$197 in court costs. Cosme was sentenced to 60 days in jail, with all 60 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of restitution jointly and severally in the amount of \$1,302, placement on standard probation, completion of 20 hours of community service, writing a letter of apology, and maintaining general good behavior.

**Marco A. De La Cruz Castillo** of Haviland, Ohio, had a charge of operating a motor vehicle without insurance dismissed without prejudice, with costs waived.

**Christopher J. Fellers** of Haviland, Ohio, had a charge of domestic violence dismissed without prejudice. Court costs of \$105 were assessed to the defendant.

**Kenneth L. Tenwalde** of Defiance, Ohio, had a charge of resisting arrest dismissed.

**Jesus Blanco** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of aggravated menacing and fined \$100, with \$300 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, no contact with Haws Tavern or the victims, and maintaining general good behavior. In related cases, Blanco was also convicted of two counts of disorderly conduct. Conditions in those cases include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Brandon J. Ross** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of assault and fined \$100, with \$380 in court costs. He was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 172 days suspended. Ross was placed on standard probation and ordered to complete an evaluation and any recommended treatment, 20 hours of community service, a risk assessment, and the Keeping It in Check class. Additional conditions include no unlawful contact with the victim and no alcohol or drug use.

**David A. Libbing** of Fort Wayne, Indiana, had a charge of driving under suspension dismissed. In a related case, he was convicted of a stop sign violation and fined \$55, with \$95 in court costs.

**Noah E. Waggoner** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay

## WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle

### HOW ROMANTIC! - ST. VALENTINE

- Across**
- The date commemorating St. Valentine's feast day.
  - St. Valentine defied the ban on marriages and continued to perform them HOW.
  - St. Valentine lived during THIS empire's rule.
  - St. Valentine was reportedly a WHAT in Rome.
  - St. Valentine reportedly wrote a note to a jailer's daughter and signed it HOW.
  - People often seek St. Valentine to do this for love and relationships.
  - The era in which St. Valentine lived.
- Down**
- THESE were given in St. Valentine's honor as tokens of love.
  - St. Valentine's actions and courage left a lasting WHAT associated with love and devotion.
  - St. Valentine is revered religious leader, also known as a WHAT in the Catholic Church.
  - St. Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide as a day of WHAT.
  - The birthplace of St. Valentine.
  - The place where St. Valentines remains are deposited.
  - Feast of St. Valentine or Saint Valentine's Day was established by THIS person.
  - St. Valentine was a Christian THIS and executed for his faith on February 14th.
  - St. Valentine remained committed to his Christian faith, even in the face of THIS.
  - The place where St. Valentine was buried.

solution on page 11

**THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**



**Your Local Bank in Paulding**  
 103 South Main St. • Paulding, OH 45879  
 419.567.1075

**The Union Bank Co.**

\$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Ashley K. Wilhelm** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Ryan G. Brown** of Hicksville, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Jason L. Fisher** of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

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



## LEGAL NOTICE

**CI 26 001**  
 NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing  
 -VS-  
 Unknown Spouse, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood, et al.

The Defendants, Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees, Executors, Administrators and Assigns and their Spouses, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood, whose current addresses are unknown, will take notice that on January 6, 2026, the Plaintiff, NewRez LLC d/b/a Shellpoint Mortgage Servicing, filed its Complaint in Case No. CI 26 001, in the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding County, Ohio, seeking a foreclosure of its mortgage interest in the real property located at 102 Cleveland St, Grover Hill, OH 45849, Permanent Parcel No. 26-08S-038-00, ("Real Estate"), and alleged that the Defendants have or may have an interest in this Real Estate.

Rosemary Rockwood are required to answer the Plaintiff's Complaint within twenty-eight (28) days after the last date of publication of this notice. In the event that the Defendants, Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees, Executors, Administrators and Assigns and their Spouses, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood and Unknown Spouse, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood failed to respond in the allotted time, judgment by default can be entered against them for the relief requested in the Plaintiff's Complaint.

**Carrie L. Davis (0083281)**  
**Michael R. Brinkman (0040079)**  
**Christopher M. Polito (104409)**  
**Attorney for Plaintiff**  
**Ohio**  
**3962 Red Bank Road**  
**Cincinnati, OH 45227**  
**voice: 1-513-322-7000**  
**facsimile: 513-322-7099**

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 DAVID R. SCOTT, SR., ET. AL., DEFENDANTS,

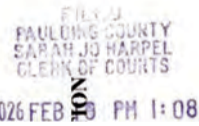
Case No. CI-26-032

**TO: Unknown heirs, administrators, executors, and assigns of David R. Scott, Sr.; Unknown Spouse of David R. Scott, Sr.; David Scott, Jr.; Unknown Spouse of David Scott, Jr.; Lauren Scott aka Laurie Scott and Unknown Spouse of Lauren Scott aka Laurie Scott**

Last Known Address: 100 W. Jackson Street, Grover Hill, Ohio 45849

Please take notice that a complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action against you seeking a foreclosure of tax liens and a public sale of real property owned by David R. Scott, Sr., recorded in Volume 553 Page 2381; Volume 554, Page 441 of the Paulding County Records, to pay delinquent real estate taxes owed on said real estate.

The real property in question is situated as follows:



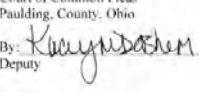
2026 FEB 10 PM 1:08

Auditor's Parcel #26-08S-013-00 / #26-08S-014-00  
 Property Address: 100 West Jackson Street, Grover Hill, Ohio 45849

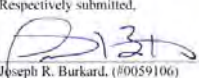
Auditor's Parcel #26-08S-012-00 / #26-08S-011-00  
 Property Address: West Jackson Street, Grover Hill, Ohio 45849

You are required to answer in the above-captioned cause twenty-eight (28) days after the last publication hereof, or a default judgment seeking sale of you real estate will be sought. Your answer should be filed with the Clerk of Courts, Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, Ohio 45879.

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

By:   
 Deputy

Respectively submitted,

  
 Joseph R. Burkard, (#0059106)  
 Paulding County, Ohio  
 Prosecuting Attorney  
 120 S. Walnut Street  
 Paulding, Ohio 45879  
 419-399-8270

# PAYNE ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Payne Elementary recently announced its **Students of the Month** for January. These students were chosen for demonstrating the character value "Honesty." Pictured above are (front row): Jensen Snyder, Bowen Hitchcock, Beau Wilcox, Colt Steffen, Finley Stoller, Teresa Monterroso, Sawyer Stoller, Mary Gerardot, Charlie Hartzler, and Abby Navarizo-Perez; (back row): River Stoller, Andrew Stoller, Quentin Coutts, Maddie Jones, River Rittenhouse, Locklen Yenser, Xander Mansfield, Maylee Stoller, and Elise Steffen. Not pictured: Genesis Gambler and Pieper Mansfield.

## ILSE ZIJLSTRA OF ANTWERP NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST AT YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

Ilse Zijlstra of Antwerp, Ohio, majoring in Theatre - Musical Theatre Track, has been named to the Dean's List at Youngstown State University for Fall Semester 2025.

Dean's List recognition is awarded to full-time undergraduate students who have earned at least a 3.4 grade point average for not less than 12 semester hours of credit in the Fall semester.

Youngstown State University is a comprehensive, public, not-for-profit institution that offers almost 12,000 students more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs backed by a strong tradition of teaching, scholarship and public service. As a major educational and economic development resource in the region, YSU is known for its focus on academic research and creative programs that transform their students into successful professionals, scholars and leaders. Located in the heart of the Tech Belt between Cleveland and Pittsburgh, YSU provides opportunities for students to actively participate with accomplished faculty, often in one-on-one settings, on advanced research

and creative collaborations. The beautiful 161-acre campus includes high-tech classrooms, state-of-the-art labs and performance facilities, a variety of on-campus housing options and recreational facilities among the best in the nation. For more information, visit [ysu.edu](http://ysu.edu).

## AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE RETURNED NEARLY \$57 MILLION TO OHIO HOUSEHOLDS LAST YEAR; FREE TAX HELP NOW AVAILABLE STATEWIDE

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio residents can receive expert tax preparation help at no cost this tax season through AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, the nation's largest free, volunteer-based tax assistance and preparation program. Tax-Aide sites are now open across Ohio through April 15, offering several in-person and remote options depending on location.

During the 2025 tax season, 1,165 IRS-certified Tax-Aide volunteers served 72,614 Ohioans at 167 sites statewide, helping taxpayers claim more than \$56.8 million in state and federal refunds and credits, including over \$5.2 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC).

"Tax-Aide puts real money back into Ohio households

and local communities," said Jenny Carlson, State Director of AARP Ohio. "This free, IRS-certified service helps people claim the refunds and credits they've earned — without hidden fees. For many Ohioans, especially those living on fixed or modest incomes, that refund can make a meaningful difference in covering everyday expenses like food, utilities, and medicine."

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide focuses on assisting adults age 50 and older with low to moderate income, but the program is open to any eligible taxpayer, and AARP membership is not required. All Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure they understand the latest changes to the tax code.

Multiple Ways to Get Free Tax Help

In addition to traditional in-person tax preparation, Tax-Aide offers several options designed to meet taxpayers where they are. Assistance types vary by location and are subject to change.

Available options may include:

- In-Person: A certified volunteer prepares and files a tax return in one visit
- Drop-Off: Taxpayer leaves documents; a volunteer prepares the return remotely, and the taxpayer returns to review and file
- Remote Assistance (No Site Visit Required): Upload documents online and work with a volunteer remotely
- Online Coaching: Prepare your own return with guidance from a certified volunteer

To find a nearby Tax-Aide site and see which services are available, visit [taxaide.aarp-foundation.org](http://taxaide.aarp-foundation.org) or call 1-888-AARPNOW (1-888-227-7669).

Tax-Aide services are available at 224 locations across communities in a majority of Ohio's counties.

## OHIO EPA SEEKS PROPOSALS FOR NEXT TWO ROUNDS OF CHLORIDE REDUCTION GRANTS

Ohio EPA has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2026-2027 H2Ohio Rivers Chloride Reduction Grants. This funding opportunity is open to select Ohio municipalities, townships and counties identified as adjacent to high-quality streams

or vulnerable groundwater. Grants will support projects that implement best management practices to reduce runoff from road salt and deicers.

Funding is available through reimbursement grants of up to \$75,000 per applicant to support equipment upgrades and facility improvements such as calibrated spreaders, brine application systems, and improved salt storage. A total of \$1.5 million will be awarded across two funding rounds in 2026 and 2027.

"We consistently receive phone calls and emails from local municipalities hoping this grant is still available," Ohio EPA Director John Logue said. "We know the need is out there. The all-too-common denominator that stands in the way of getting new storage buildings or equipment upgrades is funding. These last-mile H2Ohio dollars help to push these projects over the finish line."

Chloride Reduction grants are competitive, and eligible partners must apply and be selected to receive an award. Applications are due February 6, 2026.

Since the program's launch in 2023, Ohio EPA has awarded \$4.3 million in H2Ohio Chloride Reduction Grants to 85 communities to help obtain necessary equipment to reduce salt usage and prevent runoff from contaminating waterways. Excess road salt can leach into groundwater and surface waters, increasing salinity to unhealthy concentrations for drinking water and aquatic life.

Questions about the RFPs may be directed to [nps-program@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:nps-program@epa.ohio.gov). For more information and success stories on H2Ohio's Chloride Reduction Program, see Ohio EPA's Story Map.

H2Ohio is Governor Mike DeWine's statewide water quality initiative designed to address complex issues impacting Ohio's waters. Launched in 2019, H2Ohio uses a comprehensive approach guided by science and data to reduce algal blooms, stop pollution, and improve access to clean drinking water by supporting best farming practices, road salt runoff reduction, litter cleanup, dam removal, land conservation, and water infrastructure revitalization.

## PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENT

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (5) persons on Thursday, February 12, 2026.

**Trevor Pena** (10/20/1988), Fort Wayne, Indiana, was indicted on one count of Aggravated Possession of Drugs, a third-degree felony.

**Ashley Marie Rooks** (9/23/1997), Payne, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Possession of Cocaine, a fifth-degree felony.

**Mark Douglas Carnahan** (8/22/1971), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Open Burning or Open Dumping of Solid Waste, an unclassified felony.

**Stacy Alan Landis** (5/9/1968), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Open Burning or Open Dumping of Solid Waste, an

# BUCKMASTER SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club recently welcomed Haley Buckmaster, Executive Director of 4-H Camp Palmer, as its featured speaker. Buckmaster was invited by Kiwanis member Chris Johnson.

During her presentation, Buckmaster highlighted the many programs and services offered at Camp Palmer. Serving 11 counties, the camp operates year-round and continues to expand its impact across the region. Numerous updates and improvements have recently been completed throughout the campgrounds, with additional enhancements planned. The most recent renovation in-

cludes an overhaul to the Nature Center.

Camp Palmer is committed to developing leadership, confidence, and responsibility in youth through engaging outdoor and educational experiences. In addition to youth programming, the camp also offers facilities for team-building events, corporate and organizational retreats, and family gatherings.

The Kiwanis Club appreciates Buckmaster for sharing information about Camp Palmer's mission and ongoing improvements, and for the positive impact the camp continues to have in the community.

unclassified felony.

**Kurtis Patrick Puckett** (12/10/1993), Haviland, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Domestic Violence, a fourth-degree felony.

## PATROL INVESTIGATING FATAL CRASH ON DOMERSVILLE ROAD

DEFIANCE — The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a three-vehicle crash that occurred in Adams Township, Defiance County. The crash occurred on Domersville Road near Flory Road at 9:04 p.m.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2012 Chevrolet Malibu was northbound on Domersville Road. A 2008 Chrysler Town & Country and 2023 GMC Sierra were southbound on Domersville Road. The driver of the 2012 Chevrolet Malibu went left of center into the path of the 2008 Chrysler Town & Country, resulting in a collision, which left both vehicles disabled. The GMC Sierra was struck by debris from the crash. The Chevrolet Malibu remained in the roadway. The Chrysler Town & Country went off the west side of the roadway. The GMC Sierra came to a controlled stop.

The Chevrolet Malibu was operated by a juvenile driver, who was not wearing his

safety belt at the time of the crash. The juvenile was transported to Defiance Regional ProMedica Hospital from the scene with serious injuries. He was later flown to Columbus Children's Hospital by ProMedica Air.

The Chrysler Town & Country was operated by Jennifer Bartlett, age 47, of Alvordton, who was not wearing her safety belt at the time of the crash. Mrs. Bartlett sustained fatal injuries at the scene. Robert Sabo III, age 40 of Terre Haute, Indiana, was a passenger in the Chrysler who was not wearing his seat belt. Mr. Sabo III was transported to Defiance Regional ProMedica Hospital from the scene with serious injuries.

The GMC Sierra was operated by Cameron Stork, age 25, of Defiance Ohio who was wearing his safety belt at the time of the crash. Mr. Stork did not sustain any injuries.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted at the scene by the Defiance County Sheriff's Office, Adams Township Fire, Defiance City EMS, South Richland EMS, ProMedica Air and John's Towing.

This crash remains under investigation.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol wants to remind motorists to never text and drive distracted and to always wear your safety belt.

## NE Allen County Real Estate Auction

Wednesday, March 18 • 6pm



• 2 Story Home • 1,627 Sq. Ft. • 4 Beds, 2 Baths • Full Basement • 30x40 Shop Building • 1.14± Acre Lot

Auction Location: Harlan Park Shelter House Building, 17701 Second St, Harlan, IN 46743

Property Location: 14615 Spencerville Rd, Grabill, IN 46741

Inspection Dates: Sun, Feb. 22 • 2-4pm & Sun, Mar. 8 • 2-4pm

Sellers: Gene & Mauna Cowan Auction Manager: Jared Sipe  
Cell: 260.750.1553 Email: [jared@sfauction.com](mailto:jared@sfauction.com)  
#AU10700099, #RB14025024, #LC20700176, #AC63001504



260.749.0445  
866.340.0445

[www.SchraderFortWayne.com](http://www.SchraderFortWayne.com)  
[www.SchraderAuction.com](http://www.SchraderAuction.com)

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866-340-0445  
[SchraderFortWayne.com](http://SchraderFortWayne.com)  
Serving Northeast Indiana & Northwest Ohio

**SCHRADER**  
Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.

## LIBRARY INVITES READERS TO FALL IN LOVE WITH A "BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK"



(FORT WAYNE, IN) - This Valentine's Day, the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is encouraging readers to take a chance on something new with a creative and charming display at the Main Library: "Blind Date with a Book."

The special display features a curated selection of books wrapped in paper, concealing the title and author. Instead of judging a book by its cover, patrons are invited to choose their next read based on a short teaser description hinting at the story inside. From heartfelt romances and gripping thrillers to thought-provoking nonfiction and unexpected literary gems, the display reflects the depth and diversity of ACPL's collection.

The idea grew out of a desire to make browsing more interactive and to help readers discover titles they might otherwise overlook.

"We wanted to create a fun way for people to step outside their usual reading habits," said Sara Perišić, Adult Services Assistant Manager at the Allen County Public Library. "There's something exciting about not knowing exactly what you're getting. It adds a sense of adventure to the experience, and it's been wonderful to see patrons embrace that."

Perišić said the response so far has been overwhelming

ingly positive, with many of the wrapped books quickly finding new homes.

"Patrons have told us they love the surprise element," she said. "It's been a simple idea, but it's sparked a lot of joy. One woman picked out four books just yesterday. We almost can't wrap them fast enough!"

The "Blind Date with a Book" display is available in the Readers' Services department at the Main Library and ACPL librarians plan to continuously restock the display until the end of February. Similar displays can be found at the Aboite, Georgetown, Hessen Cassel, Little Turtle, and Pontiac branches.

For more staff recommendations, visit [acpl.info/staff-picks](http://acpl.info/staff-picks).

### ANTWERP COUNCIL REVIEWS AGREEMENTS; MERVIN STREET REPAIRS INCREASE IN COST

ANTWERP — Antwerp Village Council met Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Bryan Smith presiding. Council members present were Jason Franks, Bill Boylan, Derek Demongeot, Dean Rister, John Ganger and John DeVore III.

Council approved the January regular meeting minutes and the January financial report. During discussion of the financials, a \$20,000 expenditure was questioned and clarified before approval.

No police report was presented, as Police Chief George Clemens was unable to attend. Council also noted that no EMS report was received and will follow up to ensure one is provided next month.

In his administrative report, Administrator Brian

# Classified Ads

## Sell it in the Classifieds!

- Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.
- **Bold is \$1.00 additional.**
- Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: [info@westbendnews.net](mailto:info@westbendnews.net)
- P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813
- **Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

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

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

**GRAPPLE FOR SALE - PRICE LOWERED to \$1099, Titan Attachments Grapple for tractor or skid steer. Hydraulic cylinder, 48". 419-258-0127**

**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. \$650obo. Call 419-258-0127**

**RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 6-8**

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

**DESIGN - PRINT - ADVERTISE: West Bend Printing & Publishing can get you what you need FAST!! Logos, office stationery, building signs, yard signs & banners. All done in ANTWERP, OH! Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000.**

**FEBRUARY SPECIAL! Schedule a Classified line ad in West Bend News in February and receive a 2nd week FREE! Let us know what we can sell for YOU!! 419-258-2000**

Davis provided an update on the village's efforts to secure funding for improvements at the water treatment plant. The village will be resubmitting its WSLRA loan/grant application through the Ohio EPA. A recent inspection of the clearwell storage tank identified cracking and outside water intrusion, resulting in a notice of violation during the latest sanitary survey. Davis explained that while the notice is not ideal, it strengthens the village's position to receive a greater portion of grant funding rather than low-interest loans. The award announcement is expected sometime this spring.

Davis also reported that anticipated street work on Mervin Street has increased significantly in cost. Initial projections estimated a \$40,000 mill-and-fill project. However, testing revealed insufficient stone base, requiring a full-depth reclamation at an estimated cost of \$110,000. The village has secured approximately \$65,000 through permissive tax funds and anticipated county engineer contributions, and has requested additional Community Development Block Grant funding from the Paulding County Commissioners.

Davis addressed questions raised by residents about a previously reported \$7,500 park grant. After researching the matter, he determined the Village of Antwerp never applied for nor received the grant. The funding had been applied for by the Paulding County Commissioners in 2021 and was later clawed back in 2024. Council clarified that a separate \$1,000 contribution from Paulding County Hospital had previously been redirected toward the splash pad after originally being considered for park exercise equipment that was no longer available.

The administrator also reported applying for a \$50,000 T-Mobile grant to support potential landscaping improvements and enhancements near the park area. Award announcements are expected around the end of May.

Council is awaiting results from a Bowling Green State University study regarding water and sewer rates. Davis noted that the village's largest water user and the town's only agreement expires at the end of the year, and council will need to review potential rate adjustments once the data is received, likely by late April.

Council heard a committee report regarding a proposed subdivision development between East Canal Street and the railroad. Developer Gabe Oberlin presented plans to split purchased lots into 52-foot widths, which comply with current zoning regulations. He also proposed modifying Bell Street to include a curve rather than a square corner. Because this would alter the original plat and affect other property owners, the committee advised that zoning appeals and additional surveying would be required. No action was taken.

During the fiscal officer's report, Fiscal Officer Kevin Hornish presented multiple items for second reading, including 2026 permanent appropriations and several inter-fund transfers, including transfers to the police fund, street lighting fund, sewer operating fund, and fire equipment/maintenance fund.

Council suspended the three-reading rule and approved Resolution 2026-07 as an emergency measure authorizing the village to enter into an annexation agreement with Carryall Township regarding state-owned property near the U.S. 24/S-tate Route 49 interchange. The annexation is intended to support placement of a Village of Antwerp sign. Officials stated the property generates no tax revenue and would have no financial impact to the township.

Council also approved as

an emergency Ordinance 2026-02 authorizing a joint use agreement with the Antwerp Ball Association to support the organization's eligibility for Ohio House Bill grant funding.

Under old business, officials provided an update on proposed banner installations, noting discussions are ongoing with Rotary representatives and school officials with hopes of implementation later this year.

In new business, council discussed the need to schedule a Public Safety Committee meeting to begin reviewing upcoming fire and EMS contracts, which expire at the end of 2026. Officials noted that fire department revenues are currently operating at a deficit, necessitating transfers from the general fund.

Council also discussed concerns regarding large-scale events in the village park, naming Rock on the River, specifically focusing on compliance with existing park ordinances and potential village liability. Members emphasized the importance of consistent enforcement or formal revision of park rules to protect public safety and limit exposure. Council indicated it would consult with the Park Board and review possible policy updates before taking further action.

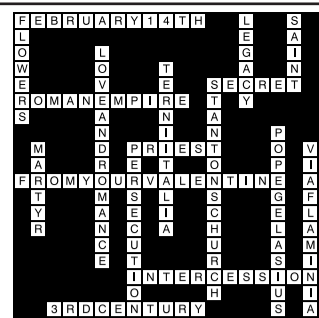
In the mayor's report, Mayor Bryan Smith reported court revenues totaling \$1,225, with \$874 allocated to the village, \$337.50 to the state and \$13.50 to Paulding County. Smith also congratulated Gabrielle and Jarrett Bute on the opening of "Raised at Home" at 417 West River Street. Smith added that he is assigning Councilman Derek Demongeot to assist with village communications, including updates on the village Facebook page and sharing information through village channels.

With no further business, council adjourned.

### ACPL REFRESHES STORYSCAPES WITH NEW TOYS THANKS TO FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY DONATION

Young visitors to the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) will find even more to explore, imagine, and discover in StoryScape, as new toys have been added to refresh and enhance the popular early literacy play spaces. The updates replace well-loved and well-used toys, ensuring StoryScape continues to be a welcoming and engaging environment for children and families.

The new items were made possible by a generous \$5000 donation from the



Crossword solution from page 9



Friends of the Allen County Public Library and are now available at the Main Library and the Pontiac, Woodburn, Grabill, and Little Turtle branches.

New additions include play cars, food and cooking sets, Magna-Tiles, play rugs, a color-changing light table, sensory blocks, and other hands-on materials designed to spark creativity, encourage problem-solving, and support early learning through play.

"StoryScape has become a favorite destination for families, and these new toys help us keep the experience fresh, safe, and inspiring," said Youth Services Manager Jacki Fulwood. "We're especially grateful to the Friends of the Library for supporting spaces where children can build a lifelong love of the library."

StoryScape first opened at the Allen County Public Library in fall of 2022 and was designed to support early literacy development through interactive, open-ended play.

"The Friends of the Library is so excited to support the ACPL's StoryScapes. Many children will use StoryScape to build essential reading readiness skills such as storytelling, collaboration, and sensory exploration," said Friends Board President Mike Horton. "It is just one of the ways the Friends are using our funding and influence to benefit the families of Allen County."

Families are invited to visit StoryScape at participating ACPL locations to enjoy the updated toys and experience the joy of learning through play. For more information about StoryScape and children's programming at the Allen County Public Library, visit [acpl.info/storyscape](http://acpl.info/storyscape).

### HELP WANTED:

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

### HELP WANTED

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

### HIRING POLICE OFFICER

The Village of Grover Hill is accepting Resumes for a part-time Police Officer. The officer will work a minimum of 10 hours per week.

Position requirements include: High School Diploma or GED, Must have OPOTA certification.

Resumes may be dropped off or Mailed to PO Box 86, Grover Hill, OH 45849, or email: [gvilleage45849@gmail.com](mailto:gvilleage45849@gmail.com), or

Call with Questions 419-506-0062



### HELP WANTED

#### Village of Payne • FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER

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

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

The full job description and employment qualifications are available on the Village website at [www.villageofpayne.com](http://www.villageofpayne.com) under the "Job Openings" tab.

Application Deadline: March 6, 2026  
Position Effective Date: IMMEDIATELY

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

The Village of Payne is an Equal Opportunity Employer

**MAUMEE VALLEY NETWORK ANNOUNCES JANUARY FLAG OF HONOR RECIPIENT JEFF BLACKMORE**



Jeff Blackmore receiving his American flag at Lee Kinstle GM Sales & Service in Van Wert from Eric McCracken.

**Blackmore Recognized for Lifetime of Military, Law Enforcement, and Community Service**

VAN WERT, Ohio — Maumee Valley Network has announced Jeff Blackmore of Van Wert as the January recipient of its Flag of Honor Giveaway, a year-long initiative celebrating community service as part of America's upcoming 250th anniversary.

The program is sponsored by Lee Kinstle GM Sales & Service and is held in partnership with Collins Flag of Marion, Indiana.

Blackmore was nominated by Van Wert resident Stacy Widmer, who cited his decades of service and continued volunteerism. According to Widmer's nomination, Blackmore devoted 20 years to the United States Military and 29 years to the Van Wert Police Department, followed by years of ongoing community involvement.

In addition to his profes-

sional service, Blackmore has volunteered as a flag football coach, served as a WatchDOG volunteer for Eastern Christian Children (ECC), and for the past four years has donated his time, photography, media support, and meals to the Van Wert High School bowling team. He also volunteers weekly through his church.

"Jeff Blackmore represents the very spirit of this program," said Maumee Valley Network. "His service didn't end with retirement — it continues every day through the people and organizations he supports."

Blackmore received his American flag at Lee Kinstle GM Sales & Service in Van Wert from Eric McCracken and was recognized as the first monthly recipient of the Flag of Honor program.

The Flag of Honor Giveaway will continue through the end of the year, with one American flag awarded each month to a deserving community member. Eligible

nominees include veterans, first responders, teachers, school staff, farmers, volunteers, and everyday heroes who demonstrate pride in their community and country.

Nominations are open to residents of Adams (IN), Allen (IN), Allen (OH), Auglaize, Defiance, Henry, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Williams counties. Each monthly recipient will be featured by Maumee Valley Network and will receive their flag locally at Lee Kinstle GM Sales & Service.

Those wishing to nominate an individual can do so by using the pinned post on Maumee Valley Network's social media platforms: [www.facebook.com/MaumeeValleyNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/MaumeeValleyNetwork) or by emailing [bighamcreativecommunications@gmail.com](mailto:bighamcreativecommunications@gmail.com).

**OHIO DEPT OF AGING SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR OHIO SENIOR CITIZENS HALL OF FAME**

The Ohio Department of Aging (AGE) is inviting nominations of exceptional older adults for induction into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame, Class of 2026.

The Hall of Fame honors current or long-time Ohio residents age 60 and older who have made and continue to make a lasting impact on their communities, their professions, or their vocations.

Nominations must be received by Tuesday, March 31, 2026, to be considered for induction during a September ceremony.

"Every year, the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame shines a spotlight on the incredible achievements of older Ohioans," said AGE Director Ursel J. McElroy. "We are thrilled to welcome a new class of honorees this fall. If you know someone whose contributions have made a real difference, we invite you to nominate them and help us share their story."

Since 1977, just 524 outstanding older Ohioans have been inducted into the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Past inductees have included business and industry leaders, advocates, community planners, educators, scientists, health care professionals, volunteers, artists, entertainers, athletes, and more.

Inductees are selected from public nominations. Nominees are evaluated on the scope and impact of their contributions before and after age 60. Nominees must be native-born Ohioans or have been residents of the state for at least 10 years. Posthumous nominations are accepted, provided the date of death is within the last five years and the nominee was age 60 or older at the time of death.

Only nominations submitted since the close of the previous nomination period (March 31, 2025) will be accepted. Repeat nominations of Ohioans who were not selected in the past are welcome, provided the candidate still meets the eligibility criteria.

Learn more, access the nomination form, and view past inductees at: [Aging.Ohio.gov/HallofFame](http://Aging.Ohio.gov/HallofFame).

**CHAOS IS ON THE MENU: THE KITCHEN WITCHES HITS THE STAGE IN ANTWERP**



Tired of the winter blues and looking for a fantastic reason to get out and have a blast? Well you are in luck!! We have just the ticket you are looking for!

The crew at CCBanks Productions is so excited to invite you to our latest show: an outrageously funny comedy guaranteed to leave your sides aching — *The Kitchen Witches!*

Picture this: Two long lost friends (turned enemies) who also happen to be rival television cooking show hosts are suddenly forced to share a live broadcast. Chaos, witty jabs, and unexpected antics ensue! This

show is a masterclass in comedic timing, packed with hilarious dialogue, outlandish situations, and truly unforgettable characters. It's the perfect recipe for a night (or afternoon) of pure fun.

Join our talented cast of Crystal Banks, Natalie Griffiths, Titus Garmater, Aria Clem, and Allison Banks on Friday and Saturday, February 20 and 21 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, February 22 at 2:00 p.m. at Studio 211 located at 211 South Main Street, Antwerp, Ohio for *The Kitchen Witches!*

For more information visit: [ccbanksproductions.com](http://ccbanksproductions.com)

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 109 S Main St. Antwerp, OH 45813  
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**HOT DEALS!**  
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**\$3.99**

**WEEKLY SPECIALS**

<b>FROZEN CHICKEN BOXES</b>	<b>ALL FROZEN HAMBURGER</b>
42LB CHICKEN QUARTERS — <b>\$84</b>	<b>20% OFF!</b>
40LB LEG QUARTERS — <b>\$29.99</b>	
14 WHOLE CHICKENS — <b>\$1.99 PER LB</b>	
8-PIECE WHOLE CHICKEN — <b>\$1.19 PER LB</b>	

**King's**  
 HAWAIIAN  
 SWEET  
 ROLLS  
 12OZ  
**\$3.79**

**OREO**  
 COOKIES  
 10CT  
 4-PK  
**\$2.69**

**JIMMY DEAN**  
 PRE-COOKED  
 BACON  
 1.6 LB  
**\$19.89**