

PANTHERS CLAIM OUTRIGHT GMC CHAMPIONSHIP WITH 62-46 WIN OVER TINORA



Paulding outright wins the 2026 High School Boys basketball GMC Championship, making this their second consecutive title! [More pictures at engageingexposures.com](https://www.engageingexposures.com)

PAULDING — The Paulding Panthers left no doubt Friday night, defeating Tinora 62-46 on February 13 to secure the Green Meadows Conference championship outright and cap off a remarkable regular season.

Paulding (15-4) delivered a balanced and efficient offensive performance, shooting 51.2 percent from the field (21-of-41), including 7-of-13 from three-point range, while knocking down 13-of-17 free throws in the decisive victory.

Tyson Manz led the way with a dominant 24-point

performance, connecting on 10-of-14 shots from the floor, including three three-pointers. Blake Rhonehouse added 19 points, drilling four three-pointers and converting 7-of-8 from the free throw line. Xander Kuckuck chipped in nine points, and

(Continued on Page 6)

PAULDING COUNTY PARTNERS WITH SABRE INDUSTRIES FOR STUDENT INTERACTIVE TOUR



HICKSVILLE – The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office recently coordinated an exploratory learning tour at Sabre Industries in Hicksville, Ohio. The tour included more than 40 students from Antwerp Local, Paulding Exempted Village, Wayne Trace Local Schools, and the Paulding County Opportunity Center. Students who indicated an interest in a welding future were treated to an up-close look at large-scale welding operations tied to Sabre's steel pole fabrication and production.

Through collaboration with Defiance County Economic Development Director Erika Willitzer, the PCED office learned that Sabre is actively seeking a large number of employees to support its expanding production needs. In response, PCED worked with Sabre Industries administration team to organize a tour for students who expressed interest in welding careers, giving them the chance to see the profession in action and better understand the skills required.

The Sabre admin team *(Continued on Page 3)*

VANTAGE
CAREER CENTER
GET THE EDGE

VANTAGE STUDENTS ARE HEADED TO STATE AFTER STRONG BPA REGIONAL PERFORMANCE

Van Wert, Ohio - Students from Vantage Career Center delivered an outstanding performance at the regional Business Professionals of America competition at Ohio Northern University in January, earning top placements and sending a strong group of qualifiers to the State Leadership Conference in Columbus, Ohio on

February 23-24. BPA competitions challenge students to apply real-world business and technology skills, from digital media and design to networking and IT systems. Vantage students demonstrated strong technical knowledge, creativity, and professionalism while competing against peers from across the region. Congratulations to all competitors, and best of luck to the state qualifiers as they represent Vantage in Columbus!

Students advancing to the BPA State Competition represent both the Interactive Media and Network Systems programs and earned top

(Continued on Page 2)

4th ANNUAL STEVIE KIMPEL CLASSIC

The 4th Annual Stevie Kimpel Classic will be held at Hicksville High School on Saturday, March 28, 2026. The event was renamed last year to honor local Special Olympics legend, and late Edgerton hometown hero, Stevie Kimpel, who passed away on March 1, 2024. An excerpt from his obituary says it best, "Stevie was a Special Olympian and participated in track, bowling, and basketball over his 47-year career. Many neighborhood friends joined him in a game of basketball as

(Continued on Page 4)

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Herb Anderson, Chair
260-715-0924

Dave Shuey, CEO
260-632-4245

46th ANNUAL 24-HOUR BASKETBALL MARATHON SET FOR APRIL 3-4 IN PAYNE

PAYNE, OHIO – The 46th Annual 24-Hour Basketball Marathon benefiting the Paulding Area Support Society (P.A.S.S.) will tip off on Good Friday, April 3, 2026, in the Payne Elementary School gym and continue through Saturday, April 4, with consecutive games played for approximately 24 hours.

For nearly five decades, the Marathon has brought together players of all ages for a fast-paced, around-the-clock event dedicated to helping local residents in need. This year's theme says it all: "46 years playing ball for those who can't."

The Marathon raises funds for the Paulding Area Support Society, a local nonprofit organization that assists 125-150 medically challenged and handicapped residents of Paulding County each year. P.A.S.S. provides equipment and services that individuals might otherwise be unable to afford, making a direct

(Continued on Page 8)

Monroeville American Legion Post 420
260-623-6679

★ BINGO! ★

Wednesday Night
Doors open 4 PM
Early Birds 6 PM
Bingo 7 PM Lic# 144707
Full Pack \$30

Hands of Hope Spring Benefit

WHEN: Friday, March 27, 2026
TIME: Doors open at 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6:00 p.m. and performance at 7:00 p.m.
VENUE: Grant's Reception Hall in Antwerp, OH
TICKETS: \$40 (reserve by March 20th!)

Tickets available online at <https://handsofhopepauldning.org/get-involved/>, by scanning the QR code below or by getting a check to Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services, 1030 W Wayne St. Suite A, Paulding, OH 45879

HANDS OF HOPE
— PREGNANCY SERVICES —

Laughter That Saves Lives

Bring your friends for a fun Friday night out!

This year's annual spring fundraiser will feature Christian comedian and author, John Branyon. John Branyon is a comedian from Kokomo, IN who was featured on *Focus on the Family* in 2024 and 2025.

We would be honored by your presence as we celebrate life!

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

Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

February 23

- Essential Oil Class w/Judy @ Payne Library
- PEVS Special Board Meeting @ Admin Office, 5p
- "A Spiritual Tapestry" @ St. John's United Church of Christ, Defiance, 7p
- Planning for the Future of Your Farm Webinar, 6-8p register by 2/23 @ farmoffice.osu.edu

February 25

- Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p

February 26

- Coffee Talk at Paulding Library, 1p
- PEVS Special Board Meeting @ Admin Office, 6p

February 27

- Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p
- Anastasia by Hicksville HS @ Huber, 7p

February 28

- Spring Mom-2-Mom Sale @ VW Co. Fairgrounds, 9a
- Anastasia by Hicksville HS @ Huber, 7p
- Bread Class @ Antwerp Library, 11a
- 3rd Annual Chili Cook-off @ Payne NAZ, 6p

UMYU 102.7
PAULDING COUNTY'S OWN

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES

WOODBURN, IN:

Barbara Ann Thomas, 80, of Woodburn, Indiana passed away Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at Vancrest of Hicksville. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

PAYNE, OH:

David M. Franklin, 58, of Payne, passed away surrounded by family on Thursday, February 12, 2026 at his home. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

PAYNE, OH:

Matthew Glass, 45, of Payne, OH, passed away suddenly at home on Friday, February 13, 2026. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

PAYNE, OH:

Lucille Barbara Klima, 84, of Payne, Ohio passed away at home on Monday, February 16, 2026. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

Paulding, OH; stepmother, Betty Birch, Decatur, IN; brothers: Craig Birch, Pleasant Mills, IN; Jeff Birch, Maples, IN; sisters: Nancy (David) Luginbill, Monroe, IN; Marnie (Steve) Shaffer, Decatur, IN; her five beloved grandchildren: Skylr (Josh), Kendall, Kalli, RJ, and Rya.

Along with her parents and husband, Paula was preceded in death by her brother, Kenneth E. Birch; sisters, Pamela Birch and Patsy Birch.

A celebration of Paula's life will be held at 1:00 PM on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at the Paulding Eagles.

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

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR GROVER HILL AND PAYNE ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Registration is now open for any child the age of 5 on or before August 27th, 2026

Grover Hill Elementary 419-587-3414 option 3 (Mrs. Candi)

Payne Elementary 419-263-2512 option 4 (front office)

Deadline to register is March 31st, 2026

RICHARDSON NAMED INTERIM PASTOR AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Dwayne Richardson of House of Love Ministries has been named interim pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Paulding, Ohio.

Richardson, an author of two books, and his wife, Brenda, previously ministered across the street from the church before retiring nearly 10 years ago. He now returns to serve the congregation following the departure of Rev. Ian Ferguson, who recently accepted a call to another church in Cincinnati.

In addition to continuing the House of Love Ministries, Richardson is blessed to spread the Gospel through his YouTube channel and has been speaking at various churches throughout Northwest Ohio.

First Presbyterian Church has deep roots in the Paul-

VAN WERT FIRST UMC AWARDED \$12,500 UNITED METHODIST GO GRANT FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



First Church representatives at the Red Carpet Event (l-r): Bishop Hee-Soo Jung, Teresa Shaffer, Jamie Ramos, Pastor Christian Taylor

United Methodist Church of Van Wert is proud to announce it has been awarded a \$12,500 United Methodist GO Grant from the West Ohio Conference in the Community Engagement category. The grant will support renovations for the Haven of Hope Community Center, a project dedicated to strengthening outreach and services for individuals and families in the community.

The award was celebrated at a Red Carpet Event in Powell, Ohio, hosted by Bishop Hee-Soo Jung. Representing First United Methodist Church at the event were Pastor Christian Taylor, Teresa Shaffer, Director of Agape Outreach, and Jamie Ramos, Assistant Director of Agape Outreach.

"This grant is a powerful affirmation of our church's commitment to meet people where they are and to serve with compassion and dignity," said Pastor Christian Taylor. "The Haven of Hope Community Center renovations will help us expand our reach and better support our neighbors."

ing community. The congregation was founded in 1875 by six original members committed to pursuing God's vision. In 1899, the main church building was erected. A pipe organ was added in 1916 and continues to enhance worship services today.

In 1993, a fellowship hall was constructed, expanding opportunities for shared meals and community gatherings. In 2007, the congregation voted to affiliate with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC).

As interim pastor, Richardson will preach regularly at First Presbyterian until a permanent pastor is called to lead the church forward. He would appreciate

The United Methodist GO Grants program empowers local churches and faith-based organizations to launch and grow innovative ministries that transform lives and communities. Funding in the Community Engagement category recognizes initiatives that build meaningful relationships and address local needs through collaborative, mission-driven efforts.

Teresa Shaffer, Director of Agape Outreach, added, "These renovations will directly enhance our ability to provide safe, welcoming, and functional space for the vital programs offered through Haven of Hope. We are deeply grateful for this investment in our community."

First United Methodist Church extends sincere thanks to the United Methodist Church, the GO Grants committee, and Bishop Hee-Soo Jung for their leadership and support. To learn more about Agape Outreach at First United Methodist Church, visit vanwertfirst.net/agape.

your prayers and the blessing of the church and community through this new endeavor.

The community is invited to attend Sunday services at First Presbyterian Church of Paulding. Sunday School begins at 9:00 a.m., followed by praise music at 10:15 a.m., and the worship service at 10:30 a.m.

GRACELYN STOLLER NAMED TO OHIO UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 PRESIDENT'S LIST

ATHENS, OH - Ohio University Russ College of Engineering and Technology student Gracelyn Stoller of Antwerp, OH has been named to Ohio University's

Stabler of St. Johns, fourth, in the same event. In Network Administration Using Cisco, Braylon Barnes of Paulding placed first, Noah Pollock of Paulding second, and Angelina Gilbert of Ft. Jennings third. Other advancing students include Michael Whitson of Crestview, ninth in Device Configuration and Troubleshooting; Henry Walpole of St. Johns, first in Computer Security; Xander Bartley of Paulding, third in Computer Security; Gavin Westgerdes of Parkway, first in C# Programming; Quinn Spackey of Van Wert, second in C++ Programming; Bill Burgei of Wayne Trace, third in Java Programming; and Carson Feathers of St. Johns, third in Python Programming.

Scripture of the Week

"Whoever would foster love covers over an offense, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends."

— Proverbs 17:9

JESUS WEPT



John 11:35 (NKJV) - "Jesus wept."

This verse, the shortest in the Bible, packs profound emotional and theological significance. It occurs in the story of Lazarus, a dear friend of Jesus who has died. When Jesus arrives at the tomb, He sees Mary, Martha, and the other mourners weeping, and He is moved by their grief.

"Jesus wept" reveals the deep compassion of Jesus. Despite knowing that He would soon raise Lazarus from the dead and that this was not the end, He still felt the weight of human sorrow. This shows that Jesus is not distant or detached from our pain; rather, He is intimately aware of our suffering and shares in it. His tears highlight His empathy and His ability to relate to our human experiences.

In this world, we sometimes allow our differences (racial, cultural, financial, and political) to distance us from others' pain. I often wondered how whole societies and classes of people could allow atrocities such as slavery and the holocaust to exist, and still to this day, there are many cases of genocide and ethnic cleansing occurring.

This moment also emphasizes the humanity of Jesus. While He is fully divine, He is

also fully human, experiencing emotions like love, grief, and compassion. This duality is essential in understanding His role as our Savior. By weeping, He demonstrates that emotion is a valid part of the human experience, and it can be an expression of love and connection.

Sometimes I feel we could be, and should be, more like Jesus in our expression of compassion for one another. Oftentimes, we hold our truest emotions too close to the vest. It's okay to weep for our hurting brothers and sisters; it's okay to weep and wail as we express our love for Jesus. I have had church services where the people were as stiff as boards and as mute as mutes. (smile) And trying to get an AMEN was as hard as pulling teeth from a Rhino. lol!

For believers today, this verse offers comfort. It reassures us that when we face loss, grief, or pain, we have a Savior who understands and mourns alongside us. It invites us to bring our sorrow to Him, knowing that He cares deeply for us.

In summary, "Jesus wept" not only serves as a poignant reminder of Christ's humanity but also encourages us to acknowledge and express our emotions in the presence of God, who loves and empathizes with us through all trials.

Express yourself while you still can.

Psalms 150:6 (NKJV) says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!" This verse emphasizes the importance of praising God with all our being. Is it possible that Jesus is weeping for our world right now? Lord, please have mercy on us, for we know not what we do.

Peace and Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

Fall 2025 President's List.

At the end of each semester, Ohio University's undergraduate students are evaluated based on their semester GPA and hours to determine placement on the President's List, Dean's List or Provost's List.

The President's List distinction is presented to undergraduate students who exhibit an exceptional commitment to academic excel-

lence each semester. Criteria for the President's List include a 4.0 GPA for the given semester with a minimum of 12 credit hours attempted for letter grades that are used to calculate GPA.

In fall semester 2025, approximately 2,500 Ohio University undergraduate students qualified for OHIO's President's List. A complete listing is available online.

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CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH PRESENTS

Family Movie Night

A biographical drama about the inspiring story of John O'Leary, a burn survivor who overcomes a near-fatal accident to become a motivational speaker.

SOUL ON FIRE

Open to Public
Bring A Friend
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Free Entry

Movie starts at 4:00 PM
Sat. - March 21
Christ Lutheran Church
4412 Park Street, Woodburn
Contact Ron Weck with any questions, at (419) 399-7117

(Continued from Page 1)

placements across a wide range of events. From Interactive Media, Jasmine Brown of Van Wert placed first in Advanced Desktop Publishing, and Nick Bush of Jefferson placed first in Fundamental Desktop Publishing. From the Network Systems program, qualifiers include Zion Bertsch of Lincolnview, second in Fundamental Accounting; Riley Wenzlick of St. Johns, third in Computer Network; Adan Zacarias of Paulding, fourth in Computer Network; and Grayden Clay of Lincolnview, sixth in Computer Network. Additional state qualifiers are Owen Stetler of Parkway, second in Server Administration Using Microsoft; Silas Foltz of Paulding, third, and Spencer

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Biblical End Times Prophecy Conference

Saturday February 28, 2026
8:00am till noon

Kingsley Church
15482 Mendon Rd Van Wert



WHAT HAPPENS IN NIAGARA FALLS, STAYS IN NIAGARA FALLS

Penny For Your thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

Did you know that way back on October 24, 1901, a 63-year-old schoolteacher named Annie Edson Taylor became the *first* person ever to survive going over Niagara Falls in a barrel? At the time women were considered the weaker sex and Annie decided in her lifetime that women could do great things

Annie Edson made her presence in this world on October 24, 1838. Born in Auburn, New York, she was one of eight children to Merrick Edson and Lucretia Waring. At the age of 12, her father, who owned a flour mill, suddenly passed away.

Fortunately for Annie and her family, her father had secured them financially, and they continued to live comfortably.

After Annie completed her college schooling, she went off to get her teaching certificate, which she achieved through a four-year training program.

It was during her studies at the training program where Annie met a man named David Taylor. They began courting and got married. While they lived well financially, they weren't without their struggles. The couple had one child, a son, who passed away during infancy.

Tragedy would strike the Taylor family again when David passed away while fighting in the Civil War. The couple had been married for seven years at David's passing. Without David, Annie began to struggle financially, and soon she found herself moving from place to place.

Of course after his death she apparently wasn't rolling in dough and was looking for a bit of fame and fortune which may bring her some money. If she accomplished something great the New York-born Taylor moved all over the U. S. before settling in Bay City, Michigan, around 1898.

In July 1901, while reading an article about the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, she learned of the growing popularity of two enormous water falls. Taylor came up with the perfect attention-getting stunt: She would go over Niagara Falls in a barrel. Imagine, at age 63, deciding to strap yourself into a

custom-made pickle barrel, all padded up, and getting tossed into the mighty Niagara River! But she decided to go through with it.

Taylor chose to take the ride on her birthday, October 24. (She claimed she was in her 40s, but genealogical records later showed she was 63.) With the help of two assistants, Taylor strapped herself into a leather harness inside a custom made wooden pickle barrel 5 ft high and three feet around. With cushions lining the barrel to break her fall, Taylor was towed by a small boat into the middle of the fast-flowing Niagara River and cut loose. Whoo! There she goes!



Knocked violently from side to side by the rapids and then propelled over the edge of Horseshoe Falls, Taylor reached the shore alive, but battered, around 20 minutes after her journey began.

To everyone's relief, she was able to walk, talk, and only had a small gash on her head. It is reported that she told people, "I would sooner walk up the mouth of a cannon, knowing it was going to blow me to pieces than make another trip over the fall."

But after a brief period of photo-ops and speaking engagements, her fame cooled, and she was unable to make the fortune for which she had hoped. In fact she died penniless.

What a feat. I am scared of water, so I would have been afraid to even get close to those falls.

Taylor was not the first person to attempt the plunge over the famous falls. In October 1829, Sam Patch, known as the Yankee Leaper, survived jumping down the 175-foot Horseshoe Falls of the Niagara River, on the Canadian side of the border, without anything on him.

She did, however, inspire a number of copy-cat daredevils. Between 1901 and 1995, 15 people went over the falls; 10 of them survived. Among those who died were Jesse Sharp, who took the plunge in a kayak in 1990, and Robert Overcracker, who used a jet ski in 1995. No matter the method, going over Niagara Falls is illegal, and survivors face charges and stiff fines on either side of the border.

In 1969 the US Army Corps of Engineers drained a portion of Niagara Falls. A tem-

porary damn was built and they were able to check out things about the Falls.

What they found at the floor of the Niagara Falls human remains of a man and woman, lots of coins, sunglasses, a car and car parts and 100 years of lost tourist attractions.

You know it made me tired just thinking of getting in a

pickel barrel and going down Niagara Falls. I don't think I would try it for a million bucks. People go there for honeymoons and sightseeing so I wondered if anyone reading this has visited Niagara Falls?

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

HICKSVILLE SOPHOMORE KATHERINE GREEN TO COMPETE AT MISS OHIO'S TEEN



Katherine Green won Miss Chillicothe's Teen in Chillicothe on Sunday Feb 15th. She also won the Teen Interview Award and the Teen Talent Award. Her talent is Vocal, performing the song "Popular" from the Tony Award winning play and movie "Wicked". She will now compete at Miss Ohio's Teen (Miss America organization) June 17-20 in Ashland Ohio. This is her 2nd year competing at Miss Ohio's Teen.

Katherine is a 16 year old Sophomore at Hicksville Schools. She participates in Track, Academic Team & choir at the school and performs in theatrical productions at the Huber in Hicksville & CC Banks in Antwerp. She has done ballet since kindergarten, currently enrolled at Five Star Studio in Hicksville. She is an Academic Honor Roll student in both Junior High and High School.

(Continued from Page 1)

shared valuable information with students about the overall company, but specifically the Hicksville facility. Discussion included safety, quality, production aspects, and employee benefits.

"This experience was valuable on multiple levels," explained PCED Director Tim Copsey. "Some students realized welding wasn't the right fit for them, while others left more excited and hope to pursue the trade. Both outcomes are wins—career exploration is about clarity, not pressure."

The tour served as a pilot for what PCED hopes are more future workforce-focused field experiences. PCED will be gathering student feedback on what worked well, what could be improved, and what additional elements would make future tours even

more impactful.

Copsey is encouraging local employers to consider hosting similar student tours, "If your business needs to build a future workforce, now is the time to open your doors. If you don't have a pipeline of employees ready to step in, or if you have team members nearing retirement, it is time to introduce students to your industry to help secure your workforce for tomorrow."

The next collaborative workforce event will be the Paulding County Career Day. It is scheduled for April 9 from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the county fairground campus. This event brings together all junior and senior students countywide. Businesses throughout the region that are interested in participating or arranging a facility tour are encouraged to contact the PCED office to reserve a spot.

FREE EXPUNGEMENT EDUCATION EVENT 3/24

A free presentation by local attorney, Heidi Fowler, explaining Indiana's Expungement Law and local resources for legal assistance will be given on Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The event will be held at Ivy Tech Community College - North Campus, 3701 Dean Drive, Tech Center Building, Rm TC-1225. Look for the building with a greenhouse facing St. Joe Road.

Indiana's law allows a one-time opportunity for some

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue. Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

MILITARY HISTORY OF PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Wilbur Don Staley was born September 14, 1890, in Melrose, Ohio, the son of Clinton "Clint" John Staley, born December 1, 1851, in Allen County, Ohio, and Mary Emma "Emmie" (Kingery) Staley, born in 1857. The couple was married September 25, 1887, in Paulding. On August 1, 1888, they welcomed a daughter, Inez, and Wilbur was born in 1890.

By 1900, the Staley family was living in Melrose, where Clinton was a music teacher and the children were attending school. In 1907, Wilbur was working for the Pennsylvania Lines Hotel as a night clerk. In 1908, he was living at 58 Spy Run in Fort Wayne, Indiana. By 1910, Wilbur had moved back to Melrose and was living with his family on River Street. Inez was working for a tinsmith, and Wilbur was working odd jobs as well as laboring.

Sometime in 1913, Wilbur married Gladys Hakes, who was born April 24, 1894, in Oakwood, Ohio. She later became a school teacher. In 1914, the couple welcomed a daughter, Artemesia Staley. Sometime after 1915, Wilbur and Gladys moved to Troy, Ohio. On September 9, 1916, in Muncie, Indiana, they welcomed a son, Don E. Staley.

On June 5, 1917, Wilbur signed up for the World War I draft. He was listed as a self-employed painter of medium height and slender build, with brown eyes and dark hair. He was shipped overseas to

France and served with Company G, 329th Infantry, until July 30, 1918. On that date, he was transferred to Company K, 104th Infantry, where he served until he was honorably discharged on July 23, 1919. He served in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne defensive sectors. He boarded the ship S.S. Rex on June 23, 1919, and set sail for home.

By 1920, Wilbur was living on East Main Street in Troy, Ohio, working as a painter and house decorator. At some point, he was divorced from his wife, Gladys, though the year is unclear.

On January 26, 1925, Clinton Staley passed away and was buried in Little Auglaize Cemetery. On May 29, 1926, Wilbur married Ellen Shisler, a dressmaker. She was born in August 1895 in Ohio and was the daughter of Arthur and Ervilla Shisler of Oakwood. On September 12, 1927, a son, Arthur Clinton Staley, was born. Arthur would later serve in World War II.

By 1930, the family was living on Celina Street in Oakwood, where Wilbur worked as a painter, painting railroad bridges and buildings. In 1935, Emma Staley passed away and was buried in Little Auglaize Cemetery.

On March 27, 1936, while driving his 1934 Ford, Wilbur collided with another car on Main Street in Fort Wayne. He was taken into surgery, where he passed away at 2:50 a.m. from a crushed chest and multiple fractures. On March 29, 1936, Wilbur was laid to rest in Prairie Chapel Cemetery, Lot 36, Grave 6. On April 27, 1936, his military upright tombstone was ordered and shipped June 10, 1936. The Dan Giltz American Legion Post #341 handled the tombstone arrangements.

Ellen never remarried and passed away February 27, 1986, in Toledo. Her burial site is unknown. Their son Arthur passed away February 6, 1993. Wilbur's children from his first marriage, Artemesia and Don, passed away in 1989 and 1974, respectively.

...Until Next Time!

low-level convictions, misdemeanors, and arrest records to be expunged (sealed) from criminal records. The Second Chance Initiative, a partnership of the Volunteer Center, the Volunteer Lawyer Program and Indiana Legal Services, offers individuals that meet qualification requirements the opportunity to have their Indiana conviction records expunged.

Volunteer Center Executive Director Ani Etter states, "A criminal record is one of the largest obstacles to better housing, employment, and education. The Second Chance Initiative provides an option for low to moderate income individuals to have a chance at a better future."

For more information, visit www.volunteerfortwayne.org.

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FREE EXPUNGEMENT EDUCATION EVENT 3/24
A free presentation by local attorney, Heidi Fowler, explaining Indiana's Expungement Law and local resources for legal assistance will be given on Tuesday, March 24 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. The event will be held at Ivy Tech Community College - North Campus, 3701 Dean Drive, Tech Center Building, Rm TC-1225. Look for the building with a greenhouse facing St. Joe Road.
Indiana's law allows a one-time opportunity for some

2026 Knights of Columbus Fish Frys
2 pc. dinner \$9.00 • 3 pc. dinner \$12.00 • 5 pc. dinner \$15.00
****Dinners Include: baked beans or corn, french fries or baked potato, coleslaw & dinner roll****
Fridays: Lunch 11a-1p • Dinner 4-7p
Dine in or Carry Out
February 20th • February 27th
March 6th • March 13th
March 20th • March 27th
Paulding Knights of Columbus
south of Paulding on SR 127
Please plan on enjoying a filling fish dinner!



THE GRANDPARENT LEAGUES

Dotting My Teas By:

Marlene Oxender

Have you seen the online video that looks like a horse race is about to begin? But the gates swing open, and there are no horses. It's people who are shooting out of the gates. And the people are older. It's the Grandparents' Derby.

I watched it several times before forwarding it to my teenage grandson Toby. We laughed as we exchanged thoughts about how well grandparents could do in sports – given a chance.

He agreed it'd be fun to see the roles reversed. Grandchildren would call their grandparents at the beginning of the season to find out their schedule. The grandchildren would sit in lawn chairs on the sidelines, and the grandparents would play ball.

When a grandparent gets a swing and a hit, the children will yell "Run!" in hopes they'll make it to first base before the grandparent in the outfield retrieves the ball and throws it in.

After the game, the grandchildren would be there to offer a hug and a high five. There'd be discussion about the way the game went. About how their knees held up.

There's likely already been a screenplay written about the 'Grandparents' League. There wouldn't be the need to hire great actors; the acting would take care of itself by the seniors simply playing ball.

My grandson Deano laughed with me as we discussed what it'd be like to see grandparents playing sports. He told me he'd pay big money to watch Grandma and

Grandpa's games.

I imagine grandchildren would put our photos on social media and brag about us. They'd go ahead and say that their grandparents are way cooler than anyone else's grandparent.

Grandparents would order reprints of their photos – in wallet size. Maybe we'd make a baseball card out of our photo. And we'd order extra prints in case the grandchildren would like one for their refrigerator.

Do you suppose those who had a competitive spirit back in the day would show us how much they haven't changed? One thing sure to change is our vocabulary. When we're young, a hurdle is something we jump over during a track meet. When we're old, a hurdle is something we've overcome. We've also jumped through plenty of hoops along the way.

If a sports program were handed out at the grandparents' games, the children would thumb through it to find their grandparents' photos and read the statistics. By the time we're senior citizens, our wins and losses have taken on new meaning.

When we're young, we plan for a great life with plenty of wins. When we're older, we know how it turned out. We know how many bad calls we overcame. How many strikes. How many hits and how many misses. How many times we were there for the save.

And so it goes – the game of life. Full of wins and losses. Full of times we ran the bases with ease. And times we knew we'd better slide into base, make the dirt fly, and hope we hear the word "safe" yelled rather loudly.

Most of us learn the game of baseball at a young age when an adult helps us find a glove that fits and a bat that'd work best for us. We learn to stand at home plate and keep our eye on a ball that's thrown at us. We make the quickest decision we'll ever make – to swing or not to swing.

I've heard it said that the reason a professional player can be successful at hitting a baseball that's coming at him

at 90 miles an hour is the intelligence of the body. Embedded in our neurology is a consciousness that is responsive to the environment – independent of our brain.

And if we become strong enough, we'll hit the ball out of the park, put the bat down, and run the bases. We'll cross home plate and add a home run to our statistics; If the bases were loaded, it's a grand slam.

Metaphorically speaking, we can apply the skill of hitting it out of the park to everything we do. Through our own intelligence. Through our body consciousness. And therein lies the beauty of becoming a senior citizen who still runs the race. Who still plays along – even if it's from a lawn chair. Who still offers some wisdom learned along

the way by hollering, "Good eye" and "Run" to the children on the baseball diamond.

There's a lot of love packed into those words flying 90 miles an hour through the air. The children hear words of encouragement and feel the love of those who've gathered. The love of those who are reminded of the days when they, too, played ball.

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

REPRESENTATIVE KLOPFENSTEIN HONORED AS 2025 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR BY COUNTY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF OHIO



COLUMBUS, Ohio – State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) was recently named 2025 Legislator of the Year by the County Engineers Association of Ohio (CEAO). The award recognizes his dedicated leadership and significant legislative achievements on behalf of Ohio's county engineers and local infrastructure.

In a press release, CEAO highlighted Rep. Klopfenstein's leadership on several key legislative initiatives in partnership with Ohio's county engineers. Most notably, he was the primary sponsor of the bill to increase County FORCE Account limits, giving local governments greater flexibility to manage road and bridge projects efficiently and cost-effectively. The measure represented a major modernization of an important tool supporting local infrastructure.

In addition to championing the FORCE Account increase, Rep. Klopfenstein played a central role in pro-

tecting the Professional Surveyor (P.S.) qualification, a vital safeguard ensuring that Ohio's surveying and mapping standards remain precise and professional.

"County engineers do essential work that keeps Ohio moving," Rep. Klopfenstein said. "It's been a privilege to work alongside them to ensure they have the tools, resources, and flexibility needed to serve our communities."

"Representative Klopfenstein has been a tireless advocate for our counties," said Doug Cade, P.E., P.S., President of the County Engineers Association of Ohio. "His understanding of what local governments need to maintain safe and reliable infrastructure has made a real difference in communities across the state."

The County Engineers Association of Ohio represents Ohio's 88 county engineers and works to advance sound, efficient transportation and infrastructure policies statewide.

they were growing up. He perfected his three-point shot on the court in his back yard. He enjoyed playing in the All-Star Cage Classic every year and was known to call for his own standing ovation after sinking a three-pointer."

The event will feature boys and girls Senior basketball players from 24 area schools, as well as Special Olympians from the 5-County area (Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, and Williams). Highlights of the evening will include a County 3-Point completion for the girls, boys, and Special Olympians, a dunk contest, and a fan partic-

ipation Hacky-Sack Toss. Both a girls and boys Most Valuable Player award will be given for their respective games. Concessions will be available, as well as other opportunities to donate to the cause.

All proceeds from this event will be divided evenly between the 5-county Special Olympics programs mentioned above. We would like to thank our sponsors for this event, without whom none of this would be possible. Jim Schmidt Family of Dealerships (Hicksville, OH - Main Sponsor), Edward Jones (Bryan Post, Hicksville, OH),

MONKEY WARD

When I was a lad in the 1950's we received both Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogs. The Sears was always quite a bit larger, nearly 3 inch thick, perhaps a third bigger but they both were large catalogs. Also every Christmas we received a Sears Wishbook, which was probably 1/2 inch thick.

I think we ordered from Sears most of the time simply because they had a bigger catalog. Montgomery Ward began in 1872 with a catalog of one sheet with 163 items. Clothes, furniture, farm equipment, nearly anything you could want. A standard Sears catalog had 672 pages and weighed nearly 4 lb. It was a monster. In 1896 Sears started producing a catalog nearly 24 years after Montgomery Ward. By the year 1900 Sears outsold Montgomery Ward and in 1950 they mailed out 20 million copies of their catalog each year.

Now anyone, from New York City to Antwerp, Ohio, could buy nearly anything. But in the 1920s, the roaring 20's, another trend took place. People started getting cars and now they were able to travel to town to shop. Sears took the lead in brick and mortar stores. In 1926 Ward had 244 stores and Sears had over twice that, 531 stores. Sears clearly took the lead. I don't remember any Montgomery Ward store in Fort Wayne, but we had a Sears since I can remember.

Now you could go to the store and actually sit in that rocking chair before you bought it. In 1940 there was a nationwide strike. Montgomery Ward would not cooperate. Also Roosevelt wanted all factories to produce war goods and Montgomery Ward didn't cooperate so the government took over the company. The company had already been having trouble and in 1930 they lost 1 million dollars.

In 1930 JP Morgan replaced the CEO of Montgomery Ward, with a money man by the name of Sewell Aster. When the government took over, he would not leave so they carried him out in his chair. After the war Sewell thought there would be a de-

Karacson Ranch (Hicksville, OH). The event has raised over \$20,000 over the last three years. Last year's event raised \$7500, which was distributed evenly between the 5-County Special Olympics pro-



pression so he started selling away assets. Sears responded by building brand new stores in the suburbs.

I personally remember two incidents. My dad had a trailer and he had a Sears tire on one wheel and a Wards tire on the other. The Sears was a big bulky tire and the Wards tire was a thin flimsy looking tire. The Sears tire went flat so many times he couldn't keep it on the rim. The Wards tire had never gone flat. In the early '60s My wife and I lived near Salem, Oregon. I went to town and bought a push mower, a Wards. Apparently they had had a store there.

The mower was terrible. Sears had a mower similar to Lawn Boy. Two cycle engine, and a heavy aluminum deck. My mower had a bent steel deck which let the wheels fall off, it was a piece of junk. I had one incident with it, we had a ditch along the road and I slipped and got my foot under the mower. To this day I thank God that I didn't get hurt.

Montgomery Ward was the company that invented Rudolph the Red-Nosed reindeer. In 1998, their advertising agency produced a coloring book with the story of Rudolph. They distributed 12.4 million copies. Wards was the developers of satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. They also were the first to use credit cards.

I felt Sears did too many things. It did home improvement and was my competitor, and sold insurance. I think All State is still in business.

Montgomery Ward always took a back seat to Sears. I guess time changes and you must be looking ahead to the latest trend. If either one of these Giants have seen etrade coming we probably wouldn't have Amazon today. Pretty tough for us guys that don't keep up with the fashions.

—James Neuhouse

grams, and it was our most money raised/donated yet!

Events of the night are attached. Also, a lot of information regarding our event can be found on our Facebook page. Please email me with

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PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING
New Schedule For Large Villages
1st Weekend- Paulding, Fair Grounds
2nd Weekend- Grover Hill, VFW
3rd Weekend- Payne,
(Paved lot east of Homier's)
4th Weekend- Antwerp,
(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)
New Schedule For Smaller Villages
3rd Wednesday of each month
Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)
Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)
Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)
Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)
For Questions Call: 419-399-3630
or Visit: www.pauldingcountywmea.com

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office
The Paulding County Veteran's Service Office is dedicated to aiding Paulding County veterans and their families in time of need.
There are two basic services the agency provides:
1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.
2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.
We also provide reimbursement for the cost of transportation to VA medical facilities in our area, or in the case where the veteran cannot drive himself, we will provide a driver.
Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments
Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

LADY ARCHERS FALL TO CRESTVIEW IN SECTIONAL OPENER



Antwerp senior RAELEY FRANKLIN shoots and scores 3 for the Archers while Kaci Gregory attempts to discourage the shot. [More pictures at engagingexposures.com](#)

CONVOY — The Antwerp Lady Archers saw their season come to a close Thursday night, February 19, falling to Crestview 50-24 in the opening round of sectional tournament play.

Despite the final score, the Lady Archers competed hard from start to finish, battling throughout the contest and refusing to back down against a tough Crestview squad.

Clara Rohrs led Antwerp offensively with 10 points, providing steady scoring throughout the night. Raeley Franklin added six points, while Eliana Hormann, Avery Honigford, Aliyah Friend and Briley Bagley each contrib-

uted two points to round out the scoring.

The loss brings the Lady Archers' season record to 7-16.

Thursday's game also marked the final high school appearance for seniors Raeley Franklin and Miley Jewell. Both players have been key contributors to the program, dedicating countless hours to their basketball careers and helping lead the team both on and off the court.

The Antwerp community extends its appreciation to the two seniors for their commitment and leadership and wishes them the very best in their future endeavors.

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

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

(Continued from Page 1)



Paulding Senior Blake Rhonehouse scores the 3 point basket and is selected as the GMC player of the year, for the second year in a row. [More pictures at engagingexposures.com](#)

Jalen Manz contributed six as the Panthers showcased their depth.

Rhonehouse also filled the stat sheet with seven rebounds, five assists and two steals, while Tyson Manz added five rebounds and three steals. As a team,

Paulding recorded 13 assists and 13 steals, forcing Tinora into 19 turnovers while committing just 10 of their own.

Tinora (9-11) was led by a balanced effort but struggled to keep pace with the Panthers' offensive efficiency. The Rams shot 42.1 percent from the field and were limited to 4-of-12 from the free throw line.

The night carried special significance beyond the conference title. "Senior Blake Rhonehouse surpassed the 1,000 point mark in this game! Becoming the third boy ever in school history to do so," said Panther coach Payton Beckman. Rhonehouse's milestone added even more excitement to an already historic evening for the program.

Rhonehouse also earned recognition as the GMC Player of the Year for the second consecutive season, further cementing his legacy as one of the most accomplished players in school history.

With the outright conference championship secured and postseason play on the horizon, the Panthers head into tournament action with momentum, confidence and a championship banner to their name.

FAIRVIEW EDGES WAYNE TRACE IN KEY GMC MATCHUP



Fairview senior William Zeedyk posts this key 3-pointer in this most competitive match of the season. [More pictures at engagingexposures.com](#)

HAVILAND — In one of the final Green Meadows Conference contests of the regular season, Fairview held off Wayne Trace for a narrow 50-48 victory on Friday, February 13 at Wayne Trace High School.

Both teams entered the night with identical 13-8 overall records and 5-2 marks in the GMC, and the game lived up to its billing as a tightly contested battle from start to finish.

Wayne Trace came out strong, building a 15-10 lead after the first quarter. Fairview responded in the second, outscoring the Raiders 14-7 to take a 24-22 advantage into halftime. The teams traded blows in the second half, with Wayne Trace winning the third quarter 14-12 to reclaim a 36-36 tie heading into the fourth.

In the final period, Fairview did just enough, edging the Raiders 14-12 to secure the conference win.

Carter Clemens led Wayne Trace with 13 points, connecting on six two-point field goals and adding a free throw. Lance Maenle added 12 points, knocking down four two-pointers and a pair of free throws. Tanner Laukhuf contributed 10 points, including two three-pointers, while Caden Sinn finished with seven. Zach Stoller chipped in six points to round out the Raiders' scoring.

Wayne Trace finished the night 11-of-25 from two-point range, 7-of-18 from beyond the arc and 5-of-10 from the free throw line. The Raiders recorded 10 assists and forced 10 steals in the effort.

Fairview was paced by Logan Olinger's 17-point performance, which included three three-pointers and a 6-of-8 showing at the foul line. Logan



Wayne Trace senior Caden Sinn gets an inside break for a layup and adds 2 points! [More pictures at engagingexposures.com](#)

Mosier added 10 points, while Hayden Bok scored seven. William Zeedyk and Gavin Meade each contributed key buckets as the Apaches balanced their scoring attack.

Fairview shot 13-of-28 from two-point range, 5-of-22 from three-point distance and 9-of-15 at the free throw line.

In junior varsity action, Fairview also came away with a 46-37 victory over Wayne Trace.

With postseason play approaching, both teams wrapped up their GMC schedules with matching 5-2 conference records in what proved to be one of the league's most competitive seasons.

ANKNEY EARNS HIS 100th WIN ON THE MAT



Levi Ankney, a wrestler at Ayersville High School, competed at the Springfield Tournament over Valentine's Day weekend. Ankney sparred well on the mat earning a 2nd place spot on the podium and achieving his 100th Win of his career. Thank you to the Ankney family for allowing West Bend Printing to design and print your banner to commemorate this achievement! *Photo by Mindy Ankney*

MAIN STREET

Occasions

GRAND OPENING

22246 Main Street, Woodburn, IN 46797

Friday • March 6th
5pm - 9pm
Drinks & Appetizers

Door Prizes!

Saturday • March 7th
8am - Noon
Coffee & Donuts



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Antwerp, OH 45813

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

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



Member FDIC

RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

FEBRUARY 2026

From the Superintendent's Desk ...

We have some exciting news to share! Wayne Trace will be adding a STEAM Center addition on the west side of our high school. This addition will add extra classroom space for our STEAM program. Wayne Trace will be utilizing a 1.7 million dollar grant that was awarded to us from the state of Ohio. Wayne Trace was one of 56 schools in the state of Ohio to receive this grant, and one of 3 schools in northwest Ohio (the other 2 being Lima Bath and Bryan). This is a wonderful opportunity for our school district and community! We will be able to offer our students more learning opportunities to help prepare them for the future!

Due to Ohio House Bill 114, the kindergarten entrance age requirement has changed for the 2026-2027 school year. Students must be 5 years old on or before the first full day of kindergarten instruction, which will be August 27, 2026, for the 2026-2027 school year. Please do not hesitate to contact the Payne or Grover Hill elementary office with any questions or concerns you may have.

From the Treasurer's Desk...

Ohio public schools have so much to celebrate! Public Schools Week, February 23-27, 2026, is an excellent opportunity to remind our community and the public of the value of our district and the impact of public education on 1.6 million students in Ohio. Public education is extremely important for our community. We want to thank our public school educators and classified staff for your service! We also want to thank the Wayne Trace community for all of the support they provide our public school district and its students. There is a lot of great work being done within our district!

Grover Hill Building Update...

Grover Hill Elementary continues to be a place filled with learning, growth, and connection despite our snow days this winter.

Our annual Valentine's Box Competition was a hit. Congratulations to our 1st place winners Anabelle Saylor in 2nd grade and Kipton Jay in 4th grade.

Throughout the year so far, students have made strong academic progress while also learning the importance of kindness, responsibility, and perseverance. We had very few show up on our middle of the year screener as needing urgent intervention. This is the lowest scoring category. We are very proud of these results!

Our teachers and staff remain committed to creating engaging lessons and a safe, supportive environment where every child feels valued. Their dedication, along with the support of our families, plays a vital role in student success. We are grateful for the partnership we share with parents and caregivers, as well as the continued involvement of our community. Our PTO support is remarkable.

Looking ahead, we prepare for state testing that is given to 3rd-6th graders here at the elementary levels. Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to help every student grow and succeed.

- February 18 – TK/K registration begins
- February 27 – Preschool Registration Closes
- March 12 – STEAM Night 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- March 16-20 – Spring Break
- March 26 – Preschool Screening
- March 31 – TK/K registration closes
- April 2 – Spring Program, 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- April 6-7 – TK/K Screening
- May 22 – Kindergarten Celebration

Payne Building Update...

Hello Wayne Trace Community!

As we approach Spring, exciting activities are underway at Payne Elementary. Mark your calendars for preschool screening on March 25th for the 2026-27 school year, and don't forget that Kindergarten screening will be held on April 1st and 2nd for children who turn 5 on or before August 27th. March is packed with events, including our Father/Daughter



Celebrate
Public Schools Week

Feb. 23-27, 2026

Dance on March 12th. We will also have a two-hour delay on the 13th, followed by Spring Break from March 16th to 20th.

Go Raiders!

Jr/Sr High School Building Update...

Academics & Student Achievement

Our High School Quiz Team will compete at the GMC Quiz Tournament on Friday, March 6 at the Northwest Ohio ESC in Archbold. Good luck, Raiders!

Congratulations to choir students Leah Bland, LaShan Reynolds, and Mya Endicott for representing Wayne Trace at the OMEA D3 Honors Festival at the Van Wert Performing Arts Center, joining students from 34 area schools.

Eighteen Wayne Trace artists are exhibiting 38 works across four regional shows, including the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Huntington University, and University of St. Francis. Special recognition to Boston Font for earning a Silver Key and Honorable Mention at Scholastics!

Our CTE STEAM students presented at the Ohio Educational Technology Conference in Columbus, displaying their work in Visual Design, Video Production, and Art Technology.

Fine Arts

Do not miss our high school musical, Something Rotten Jr., March 6-8 at Payne. Our students are excited and ready to shine on stage!

Classroom & Curriculum Highlights

During our recent two-hour delay, teachers collaborated on curriculum planning, assessment revisions, value-added and testing data review, STEAM exploration, CTE planning, and Tier 2 supports. Staff also trained on filtering student data in Branching Minds

to better target interventions.

New this year: Zoology! Students are exploring animal phyla through hands-on learning—including squid dissections. Calamari, anyone?

Athletics Highlights

Good luck to our winter sports teams in tournament action!

Congratulations to Lexi Moore on reaching 1,000 career points and becoming the first athlete in school history to record 1,000 career rebounds!

JH Boys Wrestling GMC Champions: Connor Riley, Logan Parisot, Sam Schabbing GMC Runner-Ups: Lukas Riley and Wyatt Gilbert

We celebrated 22 winter senior athletes across basketball, cheer, and pep band during two successful Senior Nights.

Raider Pride

Thank you to Lyn Etzler and the Pep Club for building incredible school spirit—our student sections are growing and the energy is contagious!

We piloted “Free WT Student Admission” at events thanks to the Athletic Booster Club—great feedback as we explore future expansion.

Upcoming Dates

- March 6 – GMC Quiz Bowl
- March 6-8 – Something Rotten Jr.
- April 14-30 – State Testing Window (Grades 7-12)

Wayne Trace continues to excel in academics, arts, athletics, and career readiness. **Raider Pride is strong!**



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Wayne Trace Local School District is to prioritize the philosophy of One District-One-Mission-One Vision. Wayne Trace is committed to educational excellence that will help all students achieve at their highest level and to graduate with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become thinking, productive citizens in a changing global society, this is accomplished through a system which supports community values and integrates community, technology, and educational resources delivered in a safe environment by a caring staff.

Wayne Trace Local Schools
4915 US 127
Haviland, OH 45851
419-263-2512

Superintendent: Paul Jones
Treasurer: Lori Davis
www.waynetrace.org

THE LEFT TURN



GLSS will visit 19 tracks in 4 States and Canada in 2026. *Jim DenHamer photo.*

By: Ron Burt

The Great Lakes Super Sprints have released their 2026 season schedule. They have 33 confirmed shows from April through Labor Day weekend, with special events sanctioned by GLSS after the Championship weekend. In addition to the standard, \$2,500 to win and \$400 to start, multiple \$5,000 to win shows are being planned.

The 11th season of series begins as it has the past three seasons, with a co-sanctioned event with USCS at I-75 Raceway. The sanctioning bodies will split their formats between the Friday and Saturday shows. This weekend will be a good warm up. The regional schedule starts the following weekend with a return to Indiana's Montpelier Motor Speedway. The series has been absent from Montpelier since 2018. The Montpelier race on Saturday, April 18th will also be the opening weekend for the GLSS South Division season.

The North Division begins the following weekend with a doubleheader in Michigan at I-96 Speedway Friday, 4/24 and Crystal Motor Speedway Saturday, 4/25. A return to the GLSS South region is Friday, May 1st, to help open the season at Limaland Motorsports Park. An event To Be Announced is anticipated on Saturday, May 2nd.

On Friday, May 8th, GLSS unloads for the first of two visits to West Michigan's Hartford Speedway. An event originally announced for May 9th at Shadyhill Speedway in Indiana has been rescheduled for Saturday, May 16th, following

a \$5,000 to win stop at Limaland Motorsports Park on Friday, May 15th as part of the Run for the Rabbit. Opening weeks are just a tease of what's to come in 2026.

The schedule has been well planned. The drivers and crews will have different car set-ups every race night. Different size tracks, track layouts, and dirt vs clay. Let's not forget besides the best drivers in the north series competing against the south, the top Canadian drivers are now racing special GLSS events with the increased purse money. The drivers will run on the best tracks in Tri-state in 2026. In Indiana, they will take on the famous Lawrenceburg Speedway, Circle City Raceway, near Indy, Montpelier and Shadyhill. To our north in the Wolverine State, Crystal, Hartford, Butler and Silver Bullet Speedways. In Ohio Limaland Motorsports Park, Waynesfield Raceway Park, the famous Eldora, the newly redone Mansfield Speedway and Millstream in Findlay. They will also race in Canada at Ohsweken and Buxton Speedways.

Over the past several years I've developed good friendships with many drivers. You need to be able to race on more than 2 or 3 tracks a year or you get burned out. This schedule will open the play book where everyone, every night, will have to work to get their cars dialed in and adjusted. In 2026 fans should see new drivers in Victory Lane. Until next week, keep your wheels down.

Ron out!

score as many points as possible during their 24-minute contest. Organizers emphasize that sportsmanship remains central to the event. "Sportsmanlike conduct is the rule, not the exception," the com-

mittee states. Unsportsmanlike behavior will not be tolerated.

Divisions for All Ages
The Marathon offers divisions for a wide range of ages and skill levels, including:

Mini-Tots (Grades 0-2), Tots (Grades 3-5), Mini-Youth (Grades 6-8), Youth (Grades 9-12), Adult Women's, Adult Men's, Adult Co-Ed

Mini-Tots will play on 8-foot goals using a youth basketball. Tots, Mini-Youth, Women's, and Co-Ed divisions will use 10-foot goals and a women's basketball. Youth teams may use either a men's or women's ball on 10-foot goals, while men's divisions will use a men's basketball.

Special rules apply to maintain fairness and safety. No foul shots or timeouts are permitted. Fouls result in the ball being taken out of bounds. No dunking is allowed due to previous equipment damage and schedule disruptions. Adult Co-Ed teams must have at least two female players on the floor at all times, and male players may not occupy or defend within the key area. Full-court press is not permitted in Mini-Tots, Tots, or Mini-Youth divisions.

The Marathon also follows Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) guidelines. Students in grades 7-12 may participate provided that no more than two players from the same junior high or high school team compete together on the same Marathon team. Participation will not jeopardize future eligibility.

Registration Details
The entry deadline is Friday, March 13, 2026.

The basic entry includes 10 event shirts. Additional shirts are available. Players and guests are required to pay admission at the door.

Checks should be made payable to Paulding Area Support Society and mailed with the completed entry form to: Basketball Marathon, 839 Tom Tim Dr., Paulding, Ohio 45879

Teams may indicate preferred times of play, though specific time requests cannot be guaranteed due to the 24-hour schedule. The team schedule and pairings will be emailed to registered participants and published in the West Bend News the week prior to the event.

Community Tradition
The Marathon Committee, comprised of dedicated local volunteers, works each year to ensure the event is enjoyable for players and fans alike while maximizing support for P.A.S.S.

For additional information, contact Clint Reinhart at 419-494-5570 or email basketball24hour@yahoo.com.

Organizers invite the entire community to lace up their sneakers, fill the stands, and continue a tradition that has supported Paulding County families for 46 years.

ANTWERP 8TH GRADERS CAPTURE GMC TITLE, COMPLETE BACK-TO-BACK UNDEFEATED SEASONS

The GMC 8th Grade Boys Basketball Tournament wrapped up in thrilling fashion on Saturday, February 14, as Antwerp capped off a remarkable junior high run with a championship victory over Wayne Trace.

The tournament began with quarterfinal action on

February 6. Fairview rolled past Tinora 39-9 in Game 1, while Wayne Trace edged Ayersville 31-27 in a tightly contested matchup. Antwerp made a strong opening statement with a 51-13 win over Paulding, and Edgerton advanced with a 32-26 victory over Hicksville.

In the semifinals on Monday, February 9, Wayne Trace outlasted Fairview 50-47 in a high-scoring battle to earn a spot in the title game. Antwerp continued its dominant play, defeating Edgerton 48-17 to set up a championship showdown against the Raiders.

The title game featured two of the conference's top teams, but it was Antwerp who rose to the occasion. The Archers secured the GMC championship with a win over Wayne Trace, finishing off an unforgettable season.

With the victory, Antwerp's 8th graders not only claimed the GMC tournament crown but also completed their second straight undefeated season, having gone unbeaten in both their 7th and 8th grade campaigns. The championship marked a fitting conclusion to their junior high careers and sets high expectations as they transition to the high school level.

Congratulations to the Antwerp 8th grade boys on an outstanding accomplishment and a perfect finish to their junior high basketball journey.

WAYNE TRACE RALLIES PAST LIMA SENIOR FOR 45-39 ROAD VICTORY

LIMA — Wayne Trace shook off a slow start and used a strong second half to secure a 45-39 win over Lima Senior on February 12 at Lima Senior High School.

The Raiders (17-5) trailed 16-6 after the first quarter as Lima Senior came out firing behind Khaliah Luster, who finished with a game-high 19 points, including four three-pointers. Wayne Trace settled in during the second quarter, outscoring the Spartans 12-4 to cut the deficit to 20-18 at halftime.

The two teams battled through a competitive third quarter, with Lima Senior edging Wayne Trace 13-12 to take a 33-30 lead into the final period. The Raiders responded with their strongest stretch of the night in the fourth, pouring in 15 points while holding Lima to just six to seal the comeback victory.

Lexi Moore led Wayne Trace with 18 points, going 3-of-9 from two-point range and an impressive 12-of-15 from the free throw line. Moore also dominated on the glass with 13 rebounds (3 offensive, 10 defensive) and added three steals.

Amber Stoller added 11 points, connecting on three two-point baskets and one three-pointer while contributing five rebounds, two assists and four steals. Careen Winans chipped in nine points, including a three-pointer and 4-of-6 shooting from the foul line, while Caroline Winans contributed four points, six rebounds, four assists and four steals.

Wayne Trace finished 8-of-28 from two-point range and 3-of-21 from beyond the arc but made the difference at the free throw line, converting 20-of-25 attempts. The Raiders also controlled the boards with a 38-39 rebounding ef-

MOOSE LODGE SUPPORTS BACKPACK BUDDY PROGRAM WITH \$1,000 GRANT



Pictured with the grant are (l to r) Chaplain Lynn Roth - Defiance Moose Lodge Chaplain and Abby Wolfrum - United Way of Defiance County Executive Director.

Congratulations to United Way of Defiance County for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094, who holds a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella! This grant is being used for United Way's Back-

pack Buddy program, that provides supplemental food for elementary aged school children.

Last year 15,100 weekend bags went out over the course of the school year. Thank you Moose Lodge for helping to make a difference!

fort and committed 16 turnovers.

For Lima Senior (10-10), Luster paced the offense with 19 points and six rebounds. Michaela Bean added six points and seven rebounds, while Jasilynn Ingram scored seven points and dished out eight assists. The Spartans hit six three-pointers on the night but went just 5-of-6 from the free throw line.

WOODLAN HOLDS OFF SOUTHERN WELLS

SOUTHERN WELLS — Woodlan built a strong to defeat Southern Wells 62-55 in boys basketball action on February 13.

The Warriors opened the night with a 14-10 lead after the first quarter and extended their advantage to 32-21 at halftime. Woodlan continued to control the tempo in the third quarter, pushing the margin to 40-37 heading into

the final frame.

Southern Wells responded with its best offensive stretch of the night in the fourth quarter, erupting for 18 points in attempts to close the gap. Warriors had a surge of their own scraping an epic 22 points in the fourth to secure the seven-point win.

Woodlan was led by Jacquay with 16 points, while Art added 10. Brooks finished with nine points, and Bullock and Delagrange contributed six each. Peters added five, and Klepper chipped in three as the Warriors spread the scoring throughout the lineup.

Southern Wells was paced by H. Dunham and A. Aulbach with 11 points each, J. Aulbach added ten, while Casterline led the pack with 18, and Gluster also contributed five that brought the Raiders back within striking distance.

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GREEN MEADOWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCE 2025-26 ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

The Green Meadows Conference is proud to announce the All-Conference Selections and "Player of the Year" Boys Basketball for the 2025-2026 season.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:
Blake Rhonehouse, Paulding High School

FIRST TEAM:
Blake Rhonehouse, Paul-

ing, 12; Tanner Laukhuf, Wayne Trace, 12; Zaine McMichael, Antwerp, 12; Tyson Manz, Paulding, 12; Dane Ewers, Ayersville, 10; Levi Panico, Fairview, 12

SECOND TEAM:

Jeremiah Peake, Ayersville, 11; Xander Kuckuck, Paulding, 12; Josh Lieb, Tinora, 11; Carter Clemens, Wayne Trace, 12; Lance Maenle, Wayne Trace, 12; Brady Everetts, Edgerton, 12

HONORABLE MENTION:

Weston Rhonehouse, Antwerp, 11; Kellen Sanchez, Edgerton, 11; Hayden Bok, Fairview, 11; Jalen Manz, Paulding, 11; Caden Sinn, Wayne Trace, 12; Owen Lloyd, Ayersville, 12; Logan Mosier, Fairview, 11; Luke Eicher, Hicksville, 12; Jared Neff, Tinora, 11; Maddox Baker, Edgerton, 12; Logan Olinger, Fairview, 11; Boston Tribble, Hicksville, 9; Grant Lymanstall, Tinora, 10

The Brown Township 2025 Annual Financial Report

is complete and available for inspection at the Brown Township Office.

Please contact Fiscal Officer Kevin A. Hornish at 419-594-2028 to schedule an appointment. The Brown Township Trustees will hold their regular meetings on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. Anyone wishing to be notified of any regular meeting changes or special meetings must contact the fiscal officer.

RIEDEL SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



This week, the Kiwanis Club welcomed Craig Riedel as its featured presenter. Mr. Riedel was invited by Kiwanis member Richard Kipp and was accompanied by his wife, Danette Riedel, and his campaign manager, Josh Reynolds.

During his remarks, Mr. Riedel shared his personal story of growing up in Ohio and highlighted the strong example set by his parents for him and his siblings. He also discussed both his past and

present connections to Northwest Ohio, including earlier ties to the region and his current residence there.

Mr. Reidel provided attendees with a brief overview of his public service background and emphasized his commitment to limited government, fiscal responsibility, and free market principles as the core values guiding his work.

Currently a candidate for State Senator, Mr. Riedel shared that his campaign motto is, "One day at a time."

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.

The Defendants, Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees, Executors, Administrators and Assigns and their Spouses, if any, of Rosemary Rockwood and Unknown Spouse, if any, of

FILED PAULDING COUNTY SARAH JO HARPEL CLERK OF COURTS 2026 FEB 10 AM 11:57

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

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Luis Alfredo R. Perez of Cecil, Ohio, had charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint dismissed per the state. Court costs of \$183 were assessed to the defendant.

Gerardo S. Franco of Hicksville, Ohio, had charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint dismissed per the state. Court costs of \$256.50 were assessed to the defendant.

Mario Armando T. Blancas of Hicksville, Ohio, had charges of disorderly conduct and unlawful restraint dismissed per the state. Court costs of \$256.50 were assessed to the defendant.

Diego F. Lopez of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of illegal use of a tracking device. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$180 in court costs. Lopez was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 179 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, no contact with the victim, compliance with a civil protection order, and maintaining general good behavior.

Nicholas R. Gamlin of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a registration violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Gerardo S. Franco of Hicksville, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$98 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

Luis Alfredo R. Perez of Cecil, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

Mario Armando T. Blancas of Hicksville, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and

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:

The West Bend News **Sudoku Puzzle**

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

burn, Indiana, was convicted of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant. **Danielle R. Ripke** of

Payne, Ohio, was convicted of driving under suspension. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. The court ordered Ripke to show

(Continued on Page 10)

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, Plaintiff,

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The real property in question is situated as follows:

FILED PAULDING COUNTY SARAH JO HARPEL CLERK OF COURTS 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 your 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: *Kay... Deputy*

Respectively submitted, *[Signature]*

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

WOODBURN CIVIL CITY, ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

CASH & INVESTMENTS COMBINED STATEMENT - 2025

Local Fund Number	Local Fund Name	Beg Cash & Inv Bal			End Cash & Inv Bal
		Jan. 1, 2025	Receipts	Disbursement	
1101	General	\$355,795.09	\$511,108.11	\$525,658.91	\$341,244.29
2201	Motor Vehicle Highway - MVH	\$83,908.32	\$54,297.38	\$67,590.55	\$70,615.15
2202	Local Road and Street	\$77,547.36	\$37,372.62	\$5,031.29	\$109,888.69
2203	MVH Restricted (subfund of Motor Vehicle Highway)	\$7,537.09	\$33,364.35	\$0.00	\$40,901.44
2228	LECE	\$13,809.85	\$1,900.00	\$463.40	\$15,246.45
2236	Rainy Day	\$95,487.06	\$0.00	\$12,129.47	\$83,357.59
2240	LIT - Public Safety	\$5,080.39	\$16,271.96	\$6,445.60	\$30,880.39
2256	Opioid Settlement Unrestricted	\$5,700.66	\$601.14	\$0.00	\$6,301.80
2257	Opioid Settlement Restricted	\$1,559.60	\$169.45	\$0.00	\$1,729.05
2401	ARP Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery	\$119,641.84	\$50,000.00	\$117,500.00	\$52,141.84
2402	Police Department Grants	\$2,502.17	\$2,731.74	\$3,740.86	\$1,493.05
4401	Cumulative Capital Improvement-Cigarette Tax	\$11,076.34	\$2,305.41	\$4,250.12	\$9,131.63
4402	Cumulative Capital Development	\$30,324.98	\$29,606.47	\$28,862.30	\$31,069.15
4436	County Economic Development				
	Income Tax (CEDIT)	\$485,909.98	\$357,018.70	\$277,465.01	\$565,463.67
4437	Riverboat	\$36,854.88	\$8,882.48	\$10,688.77	\$35,048.59
4445	Woodburn US 24 EDA	\$55,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$55,000.00
4446	Woodburn Industrial Park EDA	\$67,126.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$67,126.00
8810	Havenwood Water Util Operating	\$2,121.05	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,121.05
8901	Payroll	\$63.71	\$678,748.35	\$677,695.87	\$1,116.19
6604	Trash & Garbage Pickup	\$90,922.57	\$131,891.16	\$131,203.36	\$91,610.37
6201	Sewer Utility Operating	\$380,518.43	\$1,087,660.60	\$959,410.56	\$508,768.47
6202	Sewer Utility Bond & Interest Sinking	\$154,535.69	\$512,221.04	\$500,991.50	\$165,765.23
6203	Sewer Utility Depreciation	\$654,276.21	\$148,000.00	\$345,720.70	\$456,555.51
6206	Sewer Bond Debt Reserve	\$560,808.66	\$23,574.15	\$0.00	\$584,382.81
6101	Water Utility Operating	\$159,949.97	\$665,970.36	\$608,178.53	\$217,741.80
6102	Water Utility Bond and Interest	\$29,662.51	\$136,029.17	\$123,100.00	\$42,591.68
6103	Water Utility Depreciation	\$286,319.49	\$102,000.00	\$87,333.69	\$300,985.80
6104	Water Utility Meter Deposit	\$9,800.00	\$2,700.00	\$200.00	\$12,300.00
6106	Water Bond Debt Reserve	\$127,937.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$127,937.50
	TOTAL ALL FUNDS	\$3,937,577.40	\$4,694,424.64	\$4,598,449.33	\$4,033,552.71

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

\$2,000 SPONSORSHIP FROM WELLS FARGO ADVISORS ENHANCES GALA EXPERIENCE



*2026 Gala Cocktail Sponsor
Wells Fargo Advisors - Jay Hanson*

Wells Fargo Advisors – Jay Hanson has committed to a \$2,000 sponsorship as the event’s Cocktail Hour Sponsor. This support helps create a welcoming experience for

guests while contributing to the growth of the Foundation’s Community Fund. Pictured are Jay Hanson - Wells Fargo Advisor and Kristi Pariseau - Gala Committee Member.

KALIDA PULLS AWAY EARLY IN WIN OVER ANTWERP

KALIDA — Kalida jumped out to a fast start and never looked back Friday night, defeating Antwerp 76-39 in non-league boys basketball action on February 14.

The Wildcats (9-11) set the tone early, pouring in 21 first-quarter points while holding the Archers (4-18) to just seven. Kalida continued to build its lead in the second quarter with a 22-point effort, taking a commanding 43-19 advantage into halftime.

Antwerp showed more balance in the second half, scoring 10 points in both the third and fourth quarters, but Kalida maintained control with 15 points in the third and

18 more in the final period to secure the 37-point victory.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp with 24 points, accounting for more than half of the Archers’ offensive production. McMichael connected on five two-point field goals, two three-pointers and went 8-for-8 from the free throw line. Weston Rhonehouse added seven points, while Lincoln Lucas and Hampton Rogge each finished with three. Emerson Morrow contributed two points. As a team, Antwerp totaled eight two-point field goals, five three-pointers and eight free throws.

Kalida placed four players in double figures, led by C. Recker with 16 points. G. Leis added 10, while J. Hoffman finished with eight and O.

Grime scored eight. The Wildcats spread the scoring throughout the lineup, finishing with 23 two-point baskets, nine three-pointers and three free throws.

In junior varsity action, Kalida also claimed a 47-25 win over Antwerp.

ARCHERS PULL AWAY AFTER STRONG SECOND QUARTER IN WIN AT HICKSVILLE

HICKSVILLE — Antwerp used a big second quarter to seize control and went on to defeat Hicksville 64-45 in Green Meadows Conference boys basketball action on February 13.

The Archers (4-17, 1-6 GMC) trailed 12-10 after the opening quarter but flipped the momentum in the second, outscoring the Aces 19-10 to take a 29-22 lead into halftime. Antwerp continued to apply pressure in the third quarter with another 19-point effort, stretching the advantage to 48-33 heading into the final period. The Archers closed things out by winning the fourth 16-12 to secure the 19-point victory.

Weston Rhonehouse led Antwerp with 23 points, connecting on seven two-point field goals and three shots from beyond the arc. Zaine McMichael added 22 points, scoring eight baskets from inside and knocking down six free throws. Noah Lucas provided a spark from long range with three three-pointers on his way to 11 points.

Hampton Rogge chipped in four points, while Lincoln Lucas and Brayden Fuller each added two. As a team, Antwerp finished with 20 two-point field goals, six three-pointers and six free

PAULDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL’S DECEMBER/JANUARY MINDSET MARVELS



Paulding Elementary School’s mindset for December/January was 100% Accountable. Pictured are: Bottom row (l-r) Abdi Escobar, Kyran Reno, Owen Hanenkrafft, Callie Hanenkrafft, Callie Smith, Jensen Aldred. Middle (l-r) Ilah Zimmerman, Kaylee Powell, Braylee Tempel, Zane Summers, Ramona Burtch. Top row (l-r) Boston Foltz, Rozalia Wagenhauser, Ashlynn Vance, Jayden Perfecto, Elli Alvarez

throws.

Hicksville (4-16, 0-7 GMC) was paced by Boston Tribble’s 18-point performance, which included three two-pointers, three three-pointers and three free throws. Paxton Yoder added eight points, Jesus Avalos finished with seven, and Luke Eicher and Jayden Castillo each contributed six.

With the win, Antwerp picked up its first GMC victory of the season.

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN MARCH

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is all ready for March. The libraries’ new website has launched, check it out! Let us know what you think about the new look. Happy St. Patrick’s Day, March 17th. Look for the Library at the Health, Business and Industry Fair at the Fairgrounds March 18th from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.

The Adult section is busy with Craft Mondays at 11:00 a.m., ages 18+ while supplies last except for March 16th, Bingo is on the agenda.

Coffee Talk continues every Thursday at 1:00 p.m. Join us for some lively conversations.

Black Swamp Bookworms will meet on March 10th at 5:30 p.m., they are reading *The Age of Innocence*, by Edith Wharton.

Adult Bingo Luncheon is Monday, March 16th at 11:00 a.m. Meat and drinks furnished, just bring a side dish.

Adult Cookbook Club is on Monday, March 16 at 5:30 p.m., bring a dish to share. Call 419-399-2032 for this month’s theme.

Teen Cookbook Club is on March 30th at 4:00 p.m., bring a friend and see what is cooking.

The Children’s room will have Storytime on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m., join Kirk and his lively story time.

Lego Club will be on Thursday, March 19, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Annual Spring Party is March 24th 5:30-6:30 p.m., stop by and see the Easter Bunny and some of the surprises we have in mind.

ANTWERP BRANCH:
Great Escape Book Club on March 9th at 6:00 p.m.

Cookbook Club is March 16th at 5:45 p.m.

Story time is every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. Bring your kids in for a story and fun at the library.

Ice Tie Dye for ages 18 and up is March 14th call 419-258-2855 to register.

Family Game Night is Thursday March 19th 5:00-6:00 p.m., call the library for more information.

Craft Fridays, stop in anytime during library hours and make a craft to take home.

Special Saint Patrick’s Day Make & Take, March 17th, during library hours.

OAKWOOD BRANCH:
Natural Heating Pad Workshop on March 1st at 1:00 p.m., call to register.

Children’s Story Time is March 7th at 11:00 a.m.

Watch our Facebook page on March 9th for our monthly riddle, winner announced on March 10th!

Chocolate Extravaganza, March 10 & 12, hosted by the Library Association. Call for tickets.

March 11th – sign up for the monthly book drawing!

Senior Bingo Luncheon will be March 19th at 11:30

46TH ANNUAL 24-HOUR BASKETBALL MARATHON FOR P.A.S.S. PAULDING AREA SUPPORT SOCIETY

WHERE: PAYNE ELEMENTARY GYM

WHEN: GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3 & SATURDAY, APRIL 4

FOR MORE INFO OR QUESTIONS CALL 419-494-5570 or EMAIL: BASKETBALL24HOUR@YAHOO.COM

Marathon Committee:

- Clint Reinhart: 419-494-5570 • Braeden & Rylee Mormann: 419-406-2766/419-406-0213
- Chad Benschneider: 419-769-4708 • Nick & Kaleigh McClain: 419-786-0449/ 419-786-0796
- John Claymiller: 419-670-4128 • Brett Beckman: 419-263-8219
- Cameron Bidlack: 419-910-1951 • Austin Conlon: 419-796-8082 • Henry Manz: 567-344-1501

ENTRY FORM DEADLINE FRIDAY MARCH 13th, 2026

Please CIRCLE division of play, please check 'girls' or boys' or 'co-ed'

MINI-TOTS (0-2nd grade) – BOYS ___ GIRLS ___ CO-ED ___ • TOTS (3rd-5th grade) BOYS ___ GIRLS ___ CO-ED ___
MINI-YOUTH (6th-8th grade) BOYS ___ GIRLS ___ CO-ED ___ • YOUTH (9th-12th grade) BOYS ___ GIRLS ___ CO-ED ___

*MEN • *WOMEN • *CO-ED *denotes no age restrictions

REQUESTED WORDING ON BACK OF SHIRTS

One line only - print clearly:

SELECT SHIRT COLOR (CHOOSE ONE)

Black, Gold, Heliconia Pink, Kelly Green, Maroon, Navy Blue, Purple, Red, Royal Blue, Safety Green, Sport Grey
Please pick your 10 shirts:

extra shirts are \$10.00 • 2XL-4XL shirts add \$3.00

SELECT SHIRT SIZES

Children’s Sizes	Adult Sizes	
Extra Small (2-4) ___	Small (34-36) ___	XX-Large add \$3 ea ___
Small (6-8) ___	Medium (38-40) ___	3X-Large add \$3 ea ___
Medium (10-12) ___	Large (42-44) ___	4X-Large add \$3 ea ___
Large (14-16) ___	X-Large (46-48) ___	

PREFERRED TIME OF PLAY

PLEASE give several DIFFERENT times, this IS a 24-HOUR EVENT & we CAN’T grant everyone’s request. The little kids normally play Saturday MORNING after 8am or AFTERNOON

Time #1 _____ Time #2 _____ Time #3 _____
NOT EVERYONE CAN PLAY AT 8pm OR 9pm / 10am OR 11am

List reason: _____
Want To Play a Team? _____ Can’t Play a Team? _____

ENTRY FEE CALCULATION

Basic Entry Fee (includes 10 shirts) \$125.00
(players & guests required to also pay admission at the door)
Additional Shirts @ \$10.00/shirt _____ (\$10.00 x # of shirts in excess of 10) Charge for XXL, 3XL & 4XL Shirts - \$ _____
Total Amount Due with This Entry Form \$ _____

PLEASE CAREFULLY FILL OUT THIS ENTRY FORM & RETURN IT WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: PAULDING AREA SUPPORT SOCIETY. PLEASE MAIL ENTRY FORM AND CHECK TO: BASKETBALL MARATHON 839 TOM TIM DR., PAULDING, OH 45879

BY SIGNING THIS FORM YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ & AGREE TO THE RULES
TEAM REPRESENTATIVES INFO (please print clearly):

Name _____ Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____

(Continued from Page 9)

proof of insurance by February 19, 2026. A related charge of fictitious registration was dismissed.

Thomas P. Szalga of Muncie, Indiana, was convicted of failure to control following a bench trial at which testimony and exhibits were presented. He was fined \$70

and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. The court ordered payment of all fines and costs.

Diane M. Madry of Latty, Ohio, was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. She was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Pedro J. Franco Juarez of Haviland, Ohio, was convicted

of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Peggy J. Scarpelli of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

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ODNR DIVISION OF FORESTRY PROVIDES MORE THAN \$593K TO SUPPORT RURAL OHIO FIRE DEPARTMENTS



COLUMBUS, OH - The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry recently approved grant funding for 95 projects totaling more than for fire departments in rural areas of Ohio through the Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant program.

"In addition to wildland fire training, this funding helps departments serving Ohio's wildfire protection area enhance their equipment and operational readiness," said Dan Balsler, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. "Investing in local departments strengthens emergency response at the community level."

Fire departments that are awarded VFA grants can use the funding to purchase equipment like all-terrain vehicles and other tools that support operations.

VFA grant projects focus on supporting rural fire departments and helping them continue delivering safety services to their communities. VFA grants are open to fire departments composed of at least 80% volunteer firefighters that serve communities with populations of less than 10,000 people within the ODNR Forestry wildfire protection area.

The grant funds may be used by fire departments to purchase all-terrain vehicles,

wildfire water tanks and pump units, wildfire and structure fire safety equipment, radios, tools, and other items to support fire department operations and development. VFA grants may fund up to 50% of the total project cost, not to exceed \$10,000 per grant.

Many rural fire departments in Ohio have tight budgets, and most of their limited resources must be focused on keeping essential emergency services running. ODNR Forestry's VFA grant program helps supplement fire department budgets and facilitates important purchases, such as firefighter personal protective equipment and basic fire suppression equipment.

VFA grant funding is provided to ODNR Forestry from the USDA Forest Service. Funding for this cycle of VFA grants was sourced from ODNR Forestry's annual VFA allocation and from additional designated Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds.

The Ohio Division of Forestry promotes the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio's public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio's woodlands, visit Forestry.ohiodnr.gov. Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/odnrforestry>) and on Instagram ([@odnrforestry](https://instagram.com/odnrforestry)).

The Payne Branch will have Adult Craft with Tiffany on Thursday, March 5th at 1:00 p.m. Come and make a Shamrock Door Hanger, it is free and all supplies are provided. Call 419-262-3333 to register.

Bread Class is on Monday, March 16th at 1:00 p.m. Bring a bowl with a lid and any herbs or cheese you would like to add to your bread mix. Call to register.

Books & Coffee is on Thursday, March 26th at 1:00 p.m. No reading is required just come and chat with others on what you have read or maybe want to read. Relax for

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a while at the library. March Madness Trivia starting March 17th on Facebook.

CMR EVALUATION COMMITTEE FOR DPLS ANNEX & RENOVATION PROJECT TO MEET FEB. 27

The evaluation committee for the Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) Library Annex and Main Renovation Project will hold a special meeting on Friday, February 27, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., Defiance, to convene and evaluate the requests for qualifications of construction managers at risk for the Project. The evaluation committee will enter executive session, and there may be potential action to follow the executive session. This meeting is open to the public.

AREA STUDENTS NAMED TO OHIO UNIVERSITY'S FALL 2025 DEAN'S LIST

ATHENS, OH - Following the completion of each semester, Ohio University recognizes the academic achievements of its students by publishing the President's, Dean's and Provost's Lists. **Adelae Collins, Payne, OH Rayni Rister of Antwerp, OH** *About Ohio University*

Ohio University strives to be the best student-centered, transformative learning community in America, where students realize their promise, faculty advance knowledge, staff achieve excellence, and alumni become global leaders. Our Athens Campus offers students a residential learning experience in one of the na-

concept, citing possible boundary and access complications, and expressed preference for keeping the road consistent with the original configuration.

Board members also pointed to an unimproved stretch of right-of-way between the existing roadway and the proposed development, calling it a critical access issue that must be resolved. Utility tie-ins were reviewed, including a sewer connection near the water tower and possible water connections along Washington or Cruise streets to create a looped system.

Street width standards were debated, with members advising Oberlin to verify applicable minimum requirements and revise plans accordingly. No action was taken, but the board expressed support for new housing if access and infrastructure concerns can be addressed before advancing the proposal to council.

HAVILAND - MCK TRUCKING NAMED 2026 TCA ELITE FLEET CERTIFIED CARRIER

MCK Trucking, based in Haviland, Ohio, has been named a 2026 TCA Elite Fleet Certified Carrier by the Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), earning national recognition as one of the best places to drive in the truckload industry.

The TCA Elite Fleet program, developed in partnership with the Transportation and Supply Chain Institute at the University of Denver, identifies carriers that demonstrate exceptional commitment to their drivers through competitive compensation, strong safety performance, meaningful engagement, and innovative practices that enhance quality of life on the road.

This recognition reflects MCK Trucking's ongoing investment in safety, driver support, and operational excellence. The company has made measurable improvements in safety performance, reduced accidents, strengthened compliance, and implemented structured coaching and incentive programs designed to reward safe, professional driving.

"We are proud to be rec-

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

ognized as a TCA Elite Fleet," said Mike Keysor, President and CEO of Custom Assembly and MCK Trucking. "This honor belongs to our drivers. Their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to safety are what set us apart. We've worked hard to build a culture that supports our drivers both on and off the road, and this recognition validates that effort."

TCA President Jim Ward stated, "The TCA Elite Fleet program has quickly become a meaningful benchmark for excellence in our industry. The carriers recognized in 2026 have demonstrated a strong commitment to investing in their drivers and fostering environments where professionals can thrive."

MCK Trucking will be formally recognized at the TCA Annual Convention, taking place February 28 - March 3.

As the trucking industry continues to evolve, MCK Trucking remains focused on raising the bar—prioritizing safety, strengthening driver programs, and building a workplace where professional drivers can build long-term, successful careers.

For more information about MCK Trucking, visit mcktrucking.net or follow MCK Trucking on social media.

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WAYNE TRACE STUDENTS SHOWCASE CREATIVE TALENT AT STATE TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE



Pictured left to right Kenzie Johnson, Zoey Schultz, Boston Font, Isabel Gilbert, Maizy Ripke and Emma Stouffer.

Six Wayne Trace art and design students recently presented their work to teachers and administrators from across the state at the annual OETC (Ohio Education Technology Conference) in Columbus.

Design, Art Technology, and Video Production course requirements, these Raiders have been working hard in the STEAM Center to create a variety of projects, from posters and podcasts to custom boxes and banners.

As part of their Visual Design, Art Technology, and Video Production course requirements, these Raiders have been working hard in the STEAM Center to create a variety of projects, from posters and podcasts to custom boxes and banners.

PAULDING COUNTY DEMOCRATS NEWS

The Paulding County Democrats met on Tuesday, February 10 at the Paulding Eagles. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and was followed by the treasurer's report given by Bill Thomas, treasurer. The secretary's report was not read due to the absence of Secretary Sherri Baker. She was not in attendance due to meetings in Columbus.

New business discussed was joining the Ohio Demo-

cratic County Chair Association as requested in a letter submitted by Sherri Baker, which was read by Chairman George Geyer. It was agreed to participate and proceed with her request.

The members voted to endorse Sherri Baker in the May election for the district position of the Ohio State Democratic Party Central Committee. The group will also support Charlie Bakle. Jared Grace was appointed as committeeman for Paulding Village Precinct #2.

Old business discussed was the Meet the Candidate night in the Defiance UAW Hall on February 16. Several counties

participated. Paulding County has a superb attendance. Some of the speakers were David Pepper, Bryan Hambley, Elliot Forhan, Seth Walsh, Allison Russo and John Kulewicz, to name a few.

Old business included a reminder of the Saturday, March 16, 5th annual Spring Swiss Steak or Chicken Dinner. It will be held at the UAW 211 Hall in Defiance. Dinner is at 6:00p.m. Contact George Geyer for more information.

The meeting was closed after open discussion. The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the Paulding Eagles.

PAULING COUNTY PATROL INVESTIGATING INJURY CRASH IN PAULDING COUNTY

Payne - The Van Wert Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a two-vehicle, injury traffic crash that occurred on February 19, 2026 at 6:22 p.m. in Paulding County. The crash occurred at the intersection of State Route 114 and State Route 49.

The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2023 Ford F-150, operated by Gary A. Artz, 35, of Rush City, MN was traveling westbound on State Route 114 and failed to stop at the posted stop sign at the intersection of State Route 49.

Mr. Artz's vehicle entered the intersection traveling into the path of a northbound, 2016 Chrysler Town & Country that was operated by Ryan J. Karhoff, 49, of Payne. Both Mr. Artz and Mr. Karhoff were transported to OhioHealth-Van Wert Hospital for injuries sustained in the traffic crash.

Passengers in the Chrysler Town & Country were: Kristen M. Karhoff, 37, Ariana Karhoff, 10, and Chloe Karhoff, 7, all of Payne. Ariana Karhoff was transported to OhioHealth-Van Wert Hospital while Kristen Karhoff and Chloe Karhoff were transported to Parkview Regional Medical Center.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, Payne Fire & EMS, Scott Fire & EMS, Van Wert Fire Department, R & O Service, and John's Towing & Repair Service.

The crash remains under investigation.

AREA SCHOOLS ENCOURAGED TO PAINT AN ODOT PLOW



Fort Jennings High School students stand behind their patriotic plow which took second place in the People's Choice category and first place in the ODOT's Choice category in 2025.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1's Paint-the-Plow annual contest is now accepting applications for the program. Applications will be accepted until Friday, March 13.

The program is open to area schools and vocational school groups within the nine-county region of Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Wyandot counties. Applications have been sent to all eligible schools.

Plow blades will be delivered to participating schools during the week of March 16 and picked up by March 1. In mid-May, the designs will be shared on the ODOT District 1 Facebook page, and a social media competition will be held. Winners will be announced via the media and on ODOT District 1 social media in late May.

The Paint-the-Plow program allows students to paint an ODOT snowplow blade which is displayed at local community events before being used in regular winter operations, usually within the same school district that painted the plow. In recognition of America's 250th anniversary, this year participants are encouraged to create designs that honor our nation or recognize Ohio's national contributions.

Last year, 23 schools participated in the program. Carey High School, located in Wyandot County, won the People's Choice award, which was determined based on Facebook votes. Fort Jennings High School, Putnam County, earned the ODOT Choice award, selected by ODOT District 1 employees. The same award categories will return this year.

VVHS ANNOUNCES NEW CEO COORDINATOR



Van Wert, Ohio — The Career Education Opportunity (CEO) Program is celebrating its 10th year at Van Wert High School, marking a decade of providing students with meaningful, real world career experiences.

The CEO Program is offered to seniors as an elective course that allows students to be released during the school day to participate in career focused learning. Through the program, students gain hands on professional experience through internships with local businesses and other career-based opportunities. Over the past ten years, more than 650 students have developed career specific skill sets while also strengthening essential soft skills such as communication, professionalism, and collaboration, all critical for success in today's workforce.

As the program reaches this milestone, it also marks a significant transition. At the conclusion of the school year, Kerry Koontz, founder of the CEO Program, will retire from education after 40 years of dedicated service. Throughout his career at Van Wert, Mr. Koontz has served as a

teacher, counselor, coach, and leader, leaving a lasting impact on students, staff, and the community. His vision and commitment were instrumental in establishing and sustaining the CEO Program.

"It's been an honor and a privilege to work with both students and businesses in our community, and I am grateful for all of the support throughout the years," Koontz said. "I am excited for Mr. Spath and am confident that the CEO Program will continue to have a positive impact on our students and our community."

As the CEO Program looks ahead, plans are in place to ensure its continued growth and success. Van Wert High School is pleased to announce that Bob Spath will assume leadership of the CEO Program across all three participating schools: Crestview, Lincolnview, and Van Wert High Schools. The program's continued success is made possible through the strong support of the school community and more than 160 business partners who remain committed to providing students with valuable, real world learning opportunities.

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