

# WEST BEND NEWS

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 9

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

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2026

## PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO VILLAGE OF PAYNE EMS FOR LIFE-SAVING CPR MACHINE



Pictured: Fire Chief Jesse Hefner, EMS Coordinator Bill Lyons.

The Paulding County Area Foundation is proud to announce a \$10,000 grant awarded to the Village of Payne Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to support the purchase of a new automated CPR machine that will strengthen emergency response and improve patient outcomes during cardiac emergencies.

The funding will assist Payne EMS in replacing their current LUCAS automatic CPR device, which is no longer serviceable due to discontinued manufacturing of replacement parts. The new upgraded model, known as

the LUCAS 3, will provide consistent, high-quality chest compressions shown to greatly increase survival rates for cardiac arrest patients.

“By investing in updated life-saving technology, we’re helping ensure that Payne EMS has the tools they need to deliver the best possible care when every second counts,” said the Paulding County Area Foundation’s Executive Director Lisa McClure.

According to EMS Coordinator Bill Lyons, the new CPR device will also reduce physical strain on EMS personnel, allowing responders to focus

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## ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTS MEMBER TO REPLACE RECKER

The Antwerp Board of Education met Tues. Feb. 17th at 5:30 p.m. in the BOE Room.

The meeting began with the introduction of guest.

• Treasurer Kristine Stuart presented her monthly financial and fiscal year report and reported district revenue and spending is in line with the budget. The Treasurer also shared with the Board the uncertainty of revenue for the district due to recent legislative action at the state level regarding property taxation.



Jake Michael, newly appointed Antwerp School Board Member, taking outgoing board member Dennis Recker

• MS/HS Principal Jessie Arnold reported that she and MS/HS guidance counselor Diana Hammer have been working with students on scheduling classes for the 2026-27 school year. Mr. Arnold also gave praises to our MS staff and 15 area businesses and business leaders that participated in the Middle School Career Connections event this past week. Ms. Arnold also congratulated Middle School teacher Mrs. Reyes on receiving the Ohio Association of Student Leader’s Advisor of the Year award. Ms. Arnold also congratulated our winter Junior High and High School athletic teams for their successes and a big congratulations to our high school cheerleaders who took 1st place at the OASSA state cheer squad competition.

(Continued on Page 3)

## MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN DONATES TO HANDS OF HOPE PREGNANCY CENTER



Pictured above are Cheryl Stromski from Mt Calvary and Mindy Stoller, director of Hand of Hope.

My Calvary Lutheran Church members from Antwerp recently collected items for the Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center in Paulding. Items donated were diapers, baby wipes, rash cream, office supplies, and a monetary

sponsorship for the Hands of Hope upcoming banquet.

We hope to see many of you at the banquet on March 27th.

Contact Hands of Hope for more information.

## ANNUAL PAULDING COUNTY CAREER DAY SCHEDULED

PAULDING – The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office will host its annual Paulding County Career Day on Tuesday, April 9. The event will take place at the Paulding County OSU Extension Building, located at 503 Fairground Drive from 8a-12p. The event is open to the public from 8a-9a.

High school students from Antwerp, Paulding, Wayne Trace, Continental, and Vantage Career Center will be attending this event to explore career pathways and engage with participating businesses,

colleges, and nonprofit organizations.

“Last year, we welcomed more than 51 businesses and colleges, and we are anticipating another strong turnout this year. We encourage em-

(Continued on Page 2)

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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
- March 2**
- Planning for the Future of Your Farm Webinar, 6-8p register @ farmoffice.osu.edu
- March 3**
- Microsoft 365 Excel Training @ NSCC, Archbold, 8a-4p
  - Bingo w/Country Inn @ PC Senior Center, 12p
- March 4**
- Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p
  - Diamond Art w/Mike & Barbara @ PC Sen. Ctr, 12p
- March 5**
- Microsoft 365 Excel Training @ NSCC, Van Wert, 8a-4p
- March 6**
- Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p
- March 7**
- Hicksville High School Coronation @ Huber
- March 9**
- Coffee, Donuts & Trivia w/ Kari @ PC Sen. Ctr., 9a
- March 10**
- Chocolate Extravaganza @ Cooper Comm. Library, Oakwood, 7p
  - PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- March 11**
- Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p
  - Hoops for Heart @ Antwerp School

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 Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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## OBITUARIES

PAULDING, OH:

**Marjorie Ellen Howell**, 83, of Paulding, Ohio passed away Friday, February 20th, at Paulding County Hospital. ARR BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOMES OF ANTWERP AND PAYNE, OHIO.



OAKWOOD, OH

**Jack Dempsey Lassiter**, 65, of Paulding, Ohio passed away Thursday, February 19, 2026, at his residence in Oakwood. He was born October 28, 1960, in Paulding to the late Jack and Martha (Babcock) Lassiter-Theis. On May 16, 1981, he married Lori Fellers and together they started their family and new beginning of life journeys.

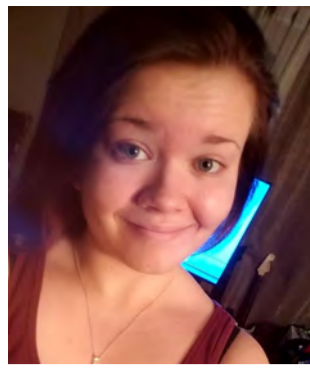
Jack was a self-employed carpenter/construction worker for many years until he became a co-owner of REAL Waste Disposal, LLC. Over the course of his life, he loved farming, hunting, fishing, building things, landscaping, and going to drag races, but most of all he loved working on trucks and his '65 Chevelle SS. After hours of working, he liked to relax and "shoot the breeze" with his team, who are like family at REAL Waste.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years; his daughter: Jennifer (Craig) Lloyd; his son: Ryan (Lindsay) Lassiter, both of Oakwood; two grandsons: Colton (Jacquelyn) Lloyd of Liberty Center, and Gage (Ashley) Lloyd of Oakwood; his brothers: Jack (Bonnie) Lassiter, Jr of California, John Lassiter of Oakwood, and Arnold Theis of Defiance; his sisters: Deb (Ed) Thrasher of Melrose, Cindy (Chuck) AuFrance of Paulding, Brenda (Joe) Stahl of Grover Hill, and Kitty (Harold) Adkins of Oakwood; brothers-in-law: Jeff (Shelly) Fellers of Michigan, Shawn (Angie) Fellers of Swanton; sisters-in-law: Karen (Bud) Cohan of Oakwood, Patty Wampler of Pea Ridge, AR., and Cindy Fellers of Charloe; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Jack is preceded in death by his parents: Jack and Martha, and stepfather, Arnold Theis; niece: Angel; father-in-law and mother-in-law: Harold and Margaret Fellers; brothers-in-law: Steve McNeely and Aaron Fellers; and sisters-in-law: Cindy, Stephanie and Holly Fellers.

Jack wanted no service and no funeral. Just kick back...shoot the breeze...tip the can...and remember the man. He will be sadly missed by all.

Condolences may be expressed at [www.loveheimeyer.com](http://www.loveheimeyer.com)



OAKWOOD, OH

**Jondel Brady Kashner**, 29, of Convoy passed away Saturday evening at Ohio Health Van Wert Hospital.

She was born on August 10, 1996, in Van Wert the daughter of Tamera Kim (Robinson) Menke who survives. On September 5, 2020, she married Douglas Ray Kashner who also survives.

Other family members include her step-father, Michael John Menke; half-sister, Skylar Brooks Menke of Marion, Ohio; her grandfather, Roger Robinson of Van Wert; parents-in-law, Ron Kashner of Cecil, Bridget Kashner of Chillicothe, Cheryl & Walter "Bud" Baer of Van Wert; in-laws, Danielle Baer of Ohio City, Coty Baer of Van Wert, Nicole Kashner of Chillicothe, and Jacob Kashner of Chillicothe.

Jondel was a graduate of Crestview High School and Vantage. She enjoyed watching Disney movies, taking care of her cats and dogs, and most of all spending time with her husband Douglas.

Services were held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 28, 2026, at Cowan & Son Funeral Home and Cremation Services. There will be calling hours 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. prior to the service.

Expressions of sympathy may be forwarded at [cowanfuneralhome.com](http://cowanfuneralhome.com).



LATTY, OH:

**Carolyn S. Jones**, age 74, of Latty, OH, passed away at her home on Sunday, February 22, 2026 surrounded by her family.

She was born in Paulding, OH on December 21, 1951 to the late Roy and Betty (Doster) Keck. Arr on January 5, 1970, she married Paul Jones.

A dedicated soul with a creative heart, Carolyn was often found with a crochet hook in hand making beautiful items for those she loved. When she wasn't at her craft, she was most likely enjoying the simple pleasure of a golf cart drive through the neighborhood or spending time with family quietly at home. Known as "Whisper Red", some of her happiest moments were spent on the back of a motorcycle with her husband, Paul, embracing the freedom of their

many rides together. Carolyn was a devoted companion to her beloved dog, Topsy. The two were inseparable, sharing a bond that brought her endless joy and comfort. Her kindness, spirit, and love for her family will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She was a member of the V-Twin Cruisers and Cruiser Club USA motorcycle clubs and also enjoyed target shooting.

Carolyn is survived by her husband of 56 years, Paul Jones, Latty, OH; daughters: Kelly (Ryan) Myers, Van Wert, OH; Karen Gebhart, Defiance, OH; brother, James (Linda) Keck, Paulding, OH; sisters: Joyce Keck, Paulding, OH; Marsha

(Jerry) Mericle, Mt. Dora, FL; grandchildren: Emma Myers, Ryan Myers, Brad Gebhart, Sara Gebhart; three great grandchildren.

She is also preceded in death by grandson, Derek "Smiley" Gebhart.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family.

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

PAYNE, OH:

**Darren "Flub" Sutton**, 77, of Payne, Ohio passed away at home Monday, February 23, 2026. ARR BY DOOLEY FUNERAL HOMES OF ANTWERP AND PAYNE, OHIO.

## FIRST UM PRESCHOOL ANNOUNCES OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



For over 50 years, First United Methodist Church Preschool has been a pillar of early childhood education in downtown Van Wert. This Christian-based preschool, serving children ages 3 to 5, is excited to announce its upcoming Open House and on-going registration for the 2026-2027 school year. "We're where kids truly love to learn and discover!"

Located conveniently at 113 W. Central Avenue in Van Wert, First UM Preschool is known for its commitment to high-quality education in a nurturing Christian environment. The preschool's key features include being established and state-licensed, offering a Christian atmosphere, maintaining low student-to-teacher ratios, and employing experienced, licensed teachers. They also provide flexible class options: a 2-day per week class for 3-

year-olds and pre-kindergarten options for 3 or 4 days per week.

Families are invited to the Open House on Thursday, March 12, 2026, with two convenient sessions: 10:30 - 11:30 AM or 2:00 - 3:30 PM. This is a fantastic opportunity to tour the facilities, meet the dedicated staff, and learn about the curriculum, which follows Ohio Department of Education guidelines. Information packets and 2026-2027 registration will be available.

Financial aid is available, ensuring that a quality early education is accessible. Don't miss this chance to secure your child's spot at a preschool where they will grow and thrive!

For more information, visit [vanwertfirst.net/preschool](http://vanwertfirst.net/preschool) or contact: Marilyn Agler, Preschool Administrator at 419-238-0631 x308 or at [marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net](mailto:marilyn.agler@vanwertfirst.net).

## VAN WERT COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES COMPLETION OF FEASIBILITY STUDY

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society is pleased to announce the completion of a comprehensive feasibility study for the future of the Van Wert County Agricultural Society and the Van Wert County Fairgrounds.

The study was conducted in partnership with Cramer & Associates and evaluated the community's readiness to support a major investment in the historic county fairgrounds. The purpose of the study was to assess the potential to raise funds for pro-

posed expansion efforts aimed at modernizing facilities, enhancing year-round usability, and preserving the fairgrounds for generations to come.

Through a series of one-on-one conversations with families, stakeholders, and community members, the study examined both the financial capacity and the overall depth of community support necessary to ensure the long-term success of the project.

Cramer & Associates presented a full report to the Fair Board during a special meeting held on February 5. During the regular board meeting on February 18, members

(PCAF/Payne EMS cont'd from Page 1)

on other critical aspects of patient care while maintaining continuous, effective compressions.

The total cost of the equipment exceeds \$22,000, and this grant represents a significant step toward fully funding the project. Community support and additional funding efforts will continue to help bring this vital equipment to Payne EMS.

The Paulding County Area Foundation remains commit-

ted to improving quality of life throughout the county by supporting local organizations, public safety services, education, and community development initiatives.

For more information about the Paulding County Area Foundation or ways to support local projects, please contact the Paulding County Area Foundation at (419) 399-8296 or you can find more information on our website:

[www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com](http://www.pauldingcountyareafoundation.com) or visit us at 101 E. Perry St., Paulding, OH 45879.

## Scripture of the Week

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth."

— 1 John 3:18

## WE ALL HAVE SCARS



Emotional scars are the lasting impacts of traumatic experiences or intense emotional pain someone endures. Unlike physical scars, which heal over time, emotional scars can last and affect a person's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors long after the original trauma is over.

Over the years, I have counseled many people with emotional scars. I even have a few of my own. Some were precipitated by Loss of a loved one, abuse, rejection, betrayal, just to name a few.

Physical, emotional, or sexual abusive experiences can create deep-seated feelings of unworthiness, fear, anxiety, and behavioral issues.

These experiences can lead to trust issues and difficulties in forming healthy relationships.

Jesus experienced all these emotional scars and overcame them. And who could be a better counselor than someone who has overcome?

Through my own personal victory over emotional scars, I have found that building a relationship with Jesus Christ was the most effective form of therapy I could have ever received.

I guess it's because I started allowing the Holy Spirit of Je-

sus Christ to be my Counselor. He is the most effective counselor. He said in his word that I will send you a comforter.

John 14:16,26 (KJV) states: "And I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever."

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

Who could best advise someone with scars than someone who has experienced and triumphantly overcome scars?

Isaiah 53:5-8 (KJV)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

We all, like sheep, have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living; for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Then he died on the cross to remove our scars (sin).

And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

What a Wonderful Counselor, He led by example.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

were appointed to form a committee that will oversee the continuation of the process and guide the next phases of planning.

The Van Wert County Agricultural Society would like to sincerely thank everyone who participated in the feasibility study and shared their thoughts about the future of the fairgrounds.

(PCED cont'd from Page 1)

employers and institutions seeking talent to participate for details on participating," said Jessica Stechsulte, Director's Assistant at Paulding County Economic Development.

The event is for more than just hiring a future workforce. The event to show students what products are made her in the county and the region. It gives employers an opportunity to share their business name, their logo, and engage

Community input is helping shape the next steps and ensuring the fair remains a strong county tradition for years to come.

Additional updates will be shared as plans move forward in the coming months. In the meantime, individuals with questions are encouraged to contact Mike Poling at the Van Wert County Fair Office.

with students to help them feel comfortable if the need to find employment down the road.

This year, through Business Advisory Council discussions, the schools and businesses have decided to have the students prepare resumes and "dress to impress" to make it a more meaningful event for everyone involved.

To sign up to display, or for additional information, please contact Jessica Stechsulte at [office@pced.net](mailto:office@pced.net).

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**WHAT GRANNY COOKED**

**Penny for Your Thoughts**

**By: Nancy Whitaker**

One thing I enjoy doing is cooking. I love looking at new recipes and trying various food preparations in the kitchen. Now I am going back to the 1950s and what food Grandma cooked for us. My Mom, brother and I lived with grandma and grandpa until I was 15.

We lived in the country and we always had a garden. Grandma put on a big sun bonnet and an apron and started her garden in the spring. She always planted and served Kentucky Wonder Beans. Oh they were beautiful, long and delicious. We all helped pick those Kentucky beans and then sit on the porch and cleaned (or snapped) them. She would cut up some ham and potatoes and cooked along with the beans. It tasted so good, I thought I had died and went to Heaven.

Another delightful dish grandma cooked was dandelion greens. She would pick the dandelion leaves when they were young and tender. Then after cleaning them, she boiled them and wilted them in bacon, vinegar and some sugar. I have never cooked dandelions or ventured out to pick them. But I do know I liked them and they were also very good.

Kalikamash was another staple dinner item. It was just a simple dish consisting of canned creamed corn and kidney beans, but when you served it over bread and butter, to a little kid, it was great. We ate cube steak, pork chops and these favorite Chicken and Dumplings. I posted a recipe online for Granny's Chicken and dumplings and lots of people thought it was too lazy of a way to make them.

The dish was really good and I have continued to make them throughout the years. The recipe she used was 2 cans of chicken noodle soup brought to a boil and the dumpling recipe on the Bisquick box. The dumplings are big and fluffy and served over mashed potatoes. Yum!

Granny also made sugar cookies, snickerdoodles, and chocolate cake. Popcorn was a good snack, but we did not have not have microwave popcorn then. We took an old seasoned iron skillet, added a spoonful of lard or bacon grease let it melt, added the popcorn, put on a lid and for some reason we shook the popcorn skillet as it popped. It was so good for a snack with a big red juicy apple.

When I got married, my husband's mom did not cook food like my family. Things like eating dandelions, kalekash, dumplings, Shelled Kentucky Wonder beans and even the way we made chili he didn't care for. Grandma put macaroni in her chili and that was a no-no but it made it go further. So, I got a whole new cooking lesson and combined what I knew and what I didn't

know. When growing up we never had Spaghetti, baked potatoes, tacos, pizza, and the only fish I knew existed was fish sticks. Grandpa always bought bananas when they were ripe and black. I thought they looked and tasted awful. So then I believed all bananas were black. Now I love bananas as long as they are just ripening and even a little green.

In fact when dating my husband, I had never eaten shrimp before. So he took me out for a shrimp dinner and I did not know any better and I ate the tail too. Well he told me not to eat the tail, but I do love shrimp. It is so funny how new foods and kitchen equipment changes through the years and how people cook different foods.

Well since we had the big snow this winter, I think of making Snow Cream. It is ba-



sically ice cream made from snow. Have you ever made it for your kids? One key to good snow cream is to make sure when you put your snow in the bowl that it is clean and white. Here is the recipe:

- SNOW CREAM**
- 1 cup milk
  - 1/3 cup sugar
  - 2 tsp vanilla extract
  - Dash of salt
  - 12 cups clean snow or more to your desired taste
  - Just stir it altogether and enjoy.

You might call me a "Foodie" and I guess I am. Basically all of our events and activities are based on food. Well it's lunch time and it's too early to get dandelions greens and most of the snow is melted, so I guess I will have a banana slathered with peanut butter. What did you eat when growing up? Do you have any old recipes that you still make? Are you a foodie too? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts

**EAST ALLEN COUNTY SCHOOLS 'KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT' SCHEDULED**

On Thursday, March 12, 2026, East Allen County Schools will host Kindergarten Enrollment for incoming families. Below are what families need to bring to enrollment:

**IMMUNIZATIONS:**

Bring documentation for all required immunizations to kindergarten enrollment or submit by the first day of school. A physical examination and dental examination are also recommended but not required. Grade K immunizations: 5-DTaP/DP-T/DT, 2 - Hepatitis A, 3-Hepatitis B, 2-MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), 4-Polio, and 2-Varicella (Chickenpox) OR physician documentation of Chickenpox disease history.

**FAMILY DOCUMENTS TO BRING:**

Birth Certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, two proofs of residency (utility bill, statement or documen-

**MUSEUM SPEAKERS BRING 'ZOMBIE HISTORY' PREVIEW TO KIWANIS CLUB**



The Kiwanis Club recently welcomed Kim Sutton and Melinda Krick from the Paulding County History Museum for an engaging and informative program. The presenters were invited by Kiwanis member Bob West.

Sutton and Krick provided a preview of their full presentation, *Zombie History*, a program that explores whether stories passed down from generation to generation are rooted in fact or folklore. During their presentation, they examined several well-known

local tales, including stories surrounding the county seat's location, local Native American history, and the legend of Coffin Road. Attendees learned the documented history behind these longstanding community narratives.

The complete *Zombie History* program will be presented at the Paulding County History Museum's annual meeting. The meeting date has not yet been determined, as the museum is currently completing renovation projects before hosting the event.

tation from a government agency, or medical bill - each dated within 30 days).

**EACS SCHOOL FORMS:**

Enrollment form, Enrollment Questionnaire, and Home Language Survey. Additional forms completed as part of annual online registration following initial enrollment.

For more information contact EACS at 260-446-0100.

**CECIL PARK COMMITTEE FORMED TO BUILD ON COMMUNITY MOMENTUM**

Building on the positive momentum generated during Crane Township's bicentennial year, local leaders have formed a committee to explore improvements to the unused park in Cecil.

Bicentennial celebrations last year included two sold-out performances of the play "No Compromise!"; more than 300 attendees at the main celebration event, and

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Ms. Arnold also shared upcoming events including ASVAB Testing for Sophomores and ACT Assessment for Juniors.

• Elementary Principal Doug Billman shared with the Board the names of elementary students who were selected as "Students of the Month". Mr. Billman also shared several important upcoming events including our Family Literacy Night event scheduled for March 12th. Mr. Billman also mentioned the dates for pre-school screenings and Kindergarten registration scheduled for April 1, 2, 10.

• In his Superintendent report, Dr. Miller shared that plans are in the works to start an agricultural education program for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Dr. Miller also informed the Board of details regarding the bid process for the Bus Garage Renovation Project. The Board made arrangement to have a special board meeting Feb. 24th to approve the

the restoration of Christmas lights in Cecil for the first time in many years. Community officials say the park initiative is a continuation of that renewed spirit of cooperation and community pride.

The newly formed committee includes representatives from the Village of Cecil, Crane Township, the Paulding County Park District, and local residents. The group recently held its first meeting to discuss potential improvements and long-term goals for the park.

Cecil Park clean-up day is planned for Saturday, April 25, and residents who would like to lend a hand are welcome to participate. Those interested in helping or learning more about the committee's efforts may contact Carol Razo at cranetwp@yahoo.com.

Committee members emphasized that the project will likely be a multi-year effort. Updates will be shared as plans develop.

lowest bid.

• Dr. Miller also shared with the Board that he will speak at the Age of Learning Leadership Forum in Los Angeles, CA March 3rd - 5th.

• The Board went into Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing letters of interest from individuals seeking to fill the Board vacancy with Dennis Recker resigning from the Board due to moving out of the school district. The Board narrowed the list to two individuals to interview during a special Board meeting scheduled for Feb. 24th.

• Consent Items: See Board Agenda. All items were approved.

Antwerp Local Schools Special Board meeting Tuesday, February 24th a 5:30 p.m.

• Approved the bid from Alexander & Bebout, Inc. in the amount of \$1,490,000. Construction will begin this spring.

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

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**By: Mark Holtsberry**

Earnest Henry Stahlhut was born March 5, 1892, in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, the son of William Frederick Stahlhut, who was born in Germany on May 20, 1866. The name of his birth mother has not been found. William later married Amelia Emily Krause on January 16, 1896, in Allen County, Indiana. Amelia was born in Germany in August of 1853.

By 1900, Earnest, along with his brother, two sisters, three stepbrothers, and one stepsister, were living on Cochren Street in the 8th Ward of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. Earnest was attending school, and his father William was working as a teamster.

By 1910, while living in St. Joseph Township, Allen County, Indiana, Earnest

was working as a hired farm-hand for Charles B. Tonkel.

On June 5, 1917, Earnest registered for the World War I draft. He traveled to the 30th Precinct in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He was described as tall with a slender build, blue eyes, and auburn hair. At the time, he was working for the Pennsylvania Railroad in Ft. Wayne as a blacksmith helper.

Earnest enlisted in the Navy in Indianapolis, Indiana, on December 15, 1917. He served as a Seaman Fireman, Second Class, stationed in Norfolk, Virginia.

He later became ill and was listed as a patient aboard ship. On March 3, 1918, he was transferred to the Naval Hospital in Norfolk. Earnest was suffering from malignant diphtheria, nose hemorrhage, and hemorrhaging of the stomach and intestines.

On March 4, 1918, at 4:10 p.m., Earnest passed away at the Naval Hospital. His father, William, who was living in Antwerp, Ohio, at the time, was notified.

Earnest was brought to Lindenwood Cemetery in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where he was buried with full military honors.

His father, William, passed away on August 9, 1936, and was buried beside Earnest in Lindenwood Cemetery.

*...Until Next Time!*

**SUCCESSFUL RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE HELD**

February 19 saw the American Red Cross in Hicksville again for their most recent blood collection. Drive coordinator and Red Cross Ambassador Zelda Zimmerman expressed her gratitude for everyone who participated and donated the forty-three units of usable blood.

Held at The First Church of Christ, the drive was supported by members of the Rotary Club who assisted with setup and teardown. Rotary also footed the bill for sandwich ingredients. Alice Breidenbaugh and Sara Green prepared food for the canteen, with cookies provided by Empower Church.

Registration was done by Connie Adams and Colleen Richter.

As always, blood is urgently needed! Please donate! Make an appointment for the next blood drive, which will be held on April 16th in Hicksville, from 1 - 6 pm. Sign up online at redcrossblood.org.

Give the gift of life to someone who desperately needs it. Remember that blood can only come from one place - and that is YOU!!!

*Call or Email your classified ad today! 419-258-2000 info@westbendnews.net*

**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**

# ANTWERP LOCAL SCHOOL

## Home of the Archers

### March 2026

#### SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of March is a very busy time period for our students and staff. Winter sports are either moving into their tournament opportunities or are winding down. Our students athletes are also gearing up for their participation in a spring sport season. A sizeable number of our students have also been busy in preparation for the High School musical entitled "The Addams Family". Performances will take place March 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. All performances will take place in our Auditoria. We are also looking forward to our annual Family Literacy Night event that will take place Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The theme for this year's event is "Reading to the Rescue...Tales of Earth and Animals."

From an academic standpoint, the third nine-week grading period ends Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. As we work our way through the last half of the school year, our seniors are busy planning for their future after graduation by finalizing plans for college, work, or the military. Similarly, during the last quarter of the school year, students in grades 3 – 11 will also engage in state assessments. Additional information regarding the state assessments is available on the Ohio Department of Education website: <https://education.ohio.gov/>.

The effort to assure that educational needs and requirements are met for all children in our district, is a challenge especially when you consider that several of our school age children are receiving their education outside of the traditional school setting of our school building. On any given school day, Antwerp Local Schools provide an educational setting for 690 students in grades PK -12. Twenty-five high school students are enrolled in at least one College Credit Plus course that may involve traveling to a college campus or completing the course online. Thirty-nine students in grades 11 & 12 attend Vantage Vocational school in Van Wert. Four students attend Western Buckeye Educational Service Center Opportunity School located in Paulding, Ohio. Three students attend Monark ABA Therapy Center in Defiance. While technically not Antwerp school students, we have 49 school age children receiving education in a "home school" environment.

Our Board of Education gave approval on several items during their February meetings. The Board awarded Alexander & Bebout, Inc. of Van Wert a contract for the renovation of the Bus Garage facility at a cost of \$1,490,000. The Board also appointed Jake Michael to serve as a member of the board for the remainder of former member Dennis Recker's unexpired term, ending December 31, 2027. Additionally, the Board gave the go ahead for the administration to proceed with starting an agricultural education program for the 2026-27 school year. The three key aspects of the program include:

1. Engagement of students through high-quality instruction and learning through interactive classroom and lab experiences with our hydroponics, aquaponics, robotics/coding, and Farmbot systems.
  2. Development of leadership, personal growth, and career success through participation in FFA programs and activities.
  3. Building work-readiness skills through experiential learning in supervised agricultural experience programs.
- The Board also heard from the administration regarding the semi-annual report (as required by state statute) of incidents related to student bullying/harassment/intimidation.

Dr. Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

#### MS. ARNOLD - HS/MS

I'd like to thank several local businesses for participating in our first annual Middle School Career Connections day. Your support to our students' future is important, and we thank you for your collaboration.

The third grading period ends March 13th with our annual PBIS Movie Day Reward.

Summer School is tentatively scheduled to begin Tuesday, May 26th. The program will be in-person again this year. High school students who fail a course for at least 1 semester will be required to attend. Middle School students will attend if they fail a class for the year.

All Juniors completed the ACT at school. Thank you to our teachers for engaging our students in ACT preparatory activities.

Our musical department will be performing *The Addams Family Musical* on March 20-22. Students and directors have put in countless hours, so we look forward to seeing all of their hard work come to full fruition. Thank you to Mr. Cord Ehrhart for directing the production.

This month we will hold "Hoops for Heart" basketball fundraiser on March 11th to raise money for the American Heart Association. Thank you to the Hammond family for your dedication to this cause!

Our senior class will be attending their senior trip later this month traveling to New York City for exciting experiences such as site-seeing the city's popular attractions and attending a Broadway show.

We are very excited to remind the community of our trip to Spain April 2-9th organized by our Spanish teacher, Mrs. Lola Revuelta. This trip offers a unique cultural experience for our students who will be visiting several different parts of Spain to be immersed in a diverse, cultural experience.

The Annual Spring State Testing will take place on: ELA - April 15-16, Math - April 22-23, Social Studies/Science - April 29-30. Please try to avoid appointments during the morning on these days.

Be sure to come support the Arts at the Arts Festival April 18th to see how talented our students are and support their activities.

In GMC wrestling: Juniors Keegan Gray-Wyckoff and Maddilan Doster both placed first, Senior Cami McAlexander, Juniors Gage Clevinger and Zac Salas all placed second, Senior Griffin Kosch, Freshman Teagen Eaton, and Aleta Sorrell all placed third, Sophomores Braxton Peters and Kaira Jones, and Junior Haylee Lingenfelter all placed fourth.

Our competition cheer squad also finished as the OASSA State Champions in its respective division on February 21st. I'd like to extend a huge congratulations to the coaches, Summer Franklin & Mia Altimus, and our cheer squad on another fantastic competition season!

In boys basketball, Senior Zaine McMichael earned First-Team GMC & First-Team District 7; Junior Weston Rhonehouse earned Honorable Mention GMC & Honorable Mention District-7 honors; and Senior Hampton Rogge was awarded with District-7 Honorable Mention.

In girls basketball, Junior Briley Bagley earned Second-Team GMC & Second-Team District 7 Honors; Junior Eliana Hormann earned Honorable Mention GMC Honors; and Sophomore Clara Rohrs earned Honorable Mention GMC & Honorable Mention District-7 honors.

~ Ms. Jessie Arnold, MS/HS Principal

#### MR. BILLMAN - ELEMENTARY

##### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Antwerp Elementary is now scheduling appointments for 2026-27. Screening dates are April 1st, 2nd, & 10th. Students must be 5 on or before August 25, 2026. If you are planning to attend, please call the elementary office as soon as possible to schedule your appointment. All children must complete kindergarten prior to entering first grade and all children age 6 must be enrolled in school. NOTE: There will be no kindergarten classes held April 1st, 2nd and 10th, 2026.

##### STATE TESTING

Grades 3-5 will have English Language Arts and Math state tests. 5th grade will also have Science testing. Tests are two days each per subject. We will be testing ELA on April 15-16, Math on April 22-23, and Science on April 29-30. Please make every effort for students to be at school and on time always, but especially for these dates.

##### JANUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

A huge congratulations to our elementary students who earned Student of the Month for the month of January.

**Kindergarten/Young 5's:** Emma Traxler, Grady Taylor, Esmeralda Isidoro & Leoana Klinger

**1st Grade:** Isla Graham & Georgia Kobbie

**2nd Grade:** Saylor Billman, Darius Ash & Claire Bechstein

**3rd Grade:** Leah Ruffing, Owen Larson & Hadley Jackson

**4th Grade:** Matias Rivera & Kaydence Woolace

**5th Grade:** Skyler Pierce, Jocelyn Skinner & Anna Wiechart

##### FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

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

~ Mr. Doug Billman, Elementary Principal

#### PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

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

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

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

#### OPEN ENROLLMENT

If you are interested in open enrollment for your child(ren) at Antwerp Local School, applications will be accepted from April 1, 2026 through June 1, 2026 to be given full consideration. Applications are approved for one (1) year and must be received in the Superintendent's office by June 1, 2026. A separate form must be completed for each student and Proof of Residency is required. If you have any questions or need to request a form, please contact Allie Beregszazi in the District Office at 419-258-5421.

#### ATHLETIC CALENDAR

##### VARSITY BASEBALL

Mar 28 11:00 @ Pettisville  
Mar 30 5:00 @ Edon

##### VARSITY SOFTBALL

Mar 24 5:00 vs. Wauseon  
Mar 26 5:00 @ North Central  
Mar 28 11:00 @ Crestview  
Mar 30 5:00 @ Edon  
Mar 31 5:00 @ Hicksville

##### VARSITY TRACK & FIELD

Mar 27 4:30 @ Hilltop/Montp.  
Mar 31 4:30 @Hilltop/Edg.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar 9-13 Spring Book Fair  
Mar 12 Family Literacy Night  
Mar 13 End of 3rd Quarter  
Mar 18 **2-Hour Delay** - Inservice  
Mar 18 Blood Drive  
Mar 19 Board of Education Meeting  
Mar 20-22 Spring Musical  
Mar 25 Spring Pictures  
Mar 27 Preschool Screenings  
Apr 3-7 **NO SCHOOL** - Easter Break  
Apr 8-9 Preschool Screenings

#### GUIDANCE NEWS

##### HS/MS

Students taking the AP exams can submit final payment of \$59 per exam to Mrs. Hammer anytime during the months of March and April. Visit the guidance website for the 2026 AP exam administration schedule or go to <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/exam-administration-ordering-scores/exam-dates>.

Juniors will be attending the Northwest State Community College Fair on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. More information can be found in Mrs. Hammer's google classroom.

Any student planning to take a College Credit Plus (CCP) class for next school year needs to complete the Intent to Participate Form and return it to the guidance office by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Forms can be found on the guidance website and in Mrs. Hammer's google classroom.

A detailed scholarship list can be found on the guidance website at <https://sites.google.com/apps.aw.noacsc.org/antwerpmsguidance/scholarships?authuser=0> There are numerous local scholarships due in the months of March and April.

##### ELEMENTARY

This month in elementary guidance, kindergarten though second grade learned about stranger safety.

Third graders talked about stress and worry by reading *Everyone Feels Anxious Sometimes*. Then they learned different coping strategies to use when they are feeling worried or anxious.

The fourth grade classes also learned about internet safety by watching a video and then completing internet safety activities in groups.

Fifth grade students learned about stress and worry by watching a video and practicing various coping strategies together.

# HENRY FORD



How do you follow Rears and Sawbucks and Monkey Ward? The early 1900s had some interesting people. Do you know anyone that is adept at mechanical things. I had a friend when I was a lad that was a mechanical genius. I noticed it mostly because I am not at all mechanically inclined. I would probably categorize myself as a farmer.

Dwayne built a hay bailer from scratch when he was just a lad. We would bail hay every evening. Later on he built a tractor from scratch using a car rear end and transmission and a Wisconsin V4 engine. Where he got the funds for all of this, it was probably just parts he got at the junkyard.

Henry Ford was born in 1863 the second of eight children. He was born on a farm in Dearborn, Michigan. His dad wanted him to farm but it became clear that he had tremendous mechanical ability. He fixed stationary steam engines for neighbors and any kind of gadgets he could get a hold of.

His dad give him a pocket watch at age 12, he took it apart and put it back together numerous times. In 1896 he built his first car called a

quadricycle. He drove it all over the countryside. He worked for many machine shops, until 1903. He formed Ford Motor Company. In 1908 started making the Ford Model T.

From the very start he tried to make a car that the common man could afford. All of the cars produced previously were quite expensive. He also attracted workers by paying several times the average wage. Different companies were experimenting with the assembly line, so he put this into practice.

Now a worker would only need to be proficient with one or two different parts of the car. One guy did the wheels, one guy did the doors. Prior to this it took days to assemble a car. He got this down to 12 hours and eventually was turning out a car every 93 minutes.

The model T was quite simple and easy to work on. It proved to be quite reliable for its day. He made this model for 12 years until he upgraded to the model A. Those were simpler times when there were fewer government regulations, and you wouldn't get sued for blinking your eye in

the wrong direction.

Ford was one of the richest men in the world in his time. He made his own steel, most of his own components, so he was able to avoid the middleman. Ford worked until he was in his '90s, when his grandson Edsel Ford took over the company. Today their company is the leader in pickup trucks and many other models.

This makes me wonder, in our general population what percentage of people are mechanically inclined. What percentage like to farm, what percentage are artistic. I think it might be quite obvious, and early grade school teachers should be able to encourage students in the proper direction. How many enjoy writing stories?

I think you are best at something that you enjoy doing. I think it would be easy to set up a test and find out what areas students enjoy. If you watch a little league game it's easy to tell who are the best players at age 8. Years ago Russia was a leader in the Olympics because they took young people who showed certain abilities and put them in a separate program. Even taking them away from their parents. I think this is going a bit far.

But I do feel we should have ways of finding people's interests and abilities and not send everyone to a 4-year college to study general studies. Most of which have no clue what they want to do.

—James Neuhouser

icy or priority was announced," said Secretary Brooke Rollins. "Today's action not only reduces government bureaucracy and makes it easier for USDA customers to access our programs, but it also strengthens our ability to take swift action when recipients and cooperators—and even recipients of subawards and subcontracts—are not compliant with Federal law and applicable Executive Orders."

USDA administers an expansive grant and cooperative agreement portfolio, spanning 21 agencies and staff offices. In FY2025 alone, the Department distributed over \$145 billion through 287 programs, resulting in nearly 38,000 new awards to farmers, ranchers, foresters, families, rural communities, small businesses, universities, and various other entities. Currently, there are 50,979 active awards across the entire USDA enterprise, underscoring the critical need for consistent oversight and accountability.

Until now, every agency and staff office implementing these programs utilized a different version of terms and conditions when entering into arrangements with recipients and cooperators, resulting in over 2,200 pages of terms and conditions across over 100 different documents. This patchwork approach to award management at USDA has created unchecked paperwork burdens and barriers for producers and small businesses seeking financial assistance from USDA and also made it difficult to swiftly implement new policies and priorities across all programs.

Under this new directive, all USDA grant, cooperative agreement, and mutual interest agreement programs will utilize the same terms and conditions, and award recipients and cooperators will only need to navigate 50 or less pages of requirements.

This action is an important step in the implementation of USDA's National Farm Security Action Plan and Executive Order 14332, Improving Oversight of Federal Grant-making, as well as various other Executive Orders and Secretary's Memorandums that have been signed this year to establish a return to American principles and align the Department's focus towards its original objectives.

## USDA STRENGTHENS NATIONAL SECURITY & PROTECTS TAXPAYERS BY STANDARDIZING GRANT AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT REQUIREMENTS

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins signed a Secretary's Memorandum directing all USDA agencies and staff offices to immediately adopt and implement the first-ever set of USDA General Terms and Conditions for all future awards.

"Since Day One, the Trump Administration has been working to promote government efficiency, streamline unnecessary regulations, and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in all USDA programs. As we took action to eliminate radical left ideology and foreign adversaries within these programs, we quickly realized the herculean task of updating over 100 sets of terms and conditions, some of which didn't even have termination clauses, each time a new pol-

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## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: THRIVING AFTER GRAY DIVORCE

March 8 is International Women's Day, a time to celebrate everything women have achieved and to honor their strength and resilience. It's also a chance to have honest conversations about real-life challenges many women face.

One of these is the growing trend of divorce among those ages 50 and older, often called "gray divorce." While finding yourself in this situation can feel overwhelming, it also can be an opportunity to reclaim your independence and create a life that reflects your dreams and values.

Today, one-third (36%) of divorcing adults are 50 or older (The Journals of Gerontology, 2022) and 77% of women who experienced gray divorce remain single 10 years after divorce ("Repartnering following gray divorce," 2019). While that might sound surprising, many women view this as a time to focus on goals, dreams and well-being without compromise.

Of course, there are financial realities to consider. Women older than 50 often experience a 45% drop in their standard of living after divorce (compared to 21% for men), and household income can fall by 23% to 40% in the first year ("The Economic Consequences of Gray Divorce for Women and Men," 2020). So, building financial confidence isn't just important; it's empowering.

If you are 50 or older and recently divorced, take the following steps with your financial advisor. You don't have to do it all at once; small steps can help lead to greater financial security over time.

1 Find a financial advisor who truly listens. If you've ever felt unheard or dismissed, don't settle. Your future deserves someone who respects your voice.

2 Get clear on your finances. List your assets, debts, and expenses to understand your financial situation — the first step toward taking control.

3 Create a flexible plan. Include your current needs, short-term goals and retire-

ment aspirations. Instead of feeling intimidated, you can let a financial advisor help make this simple and manageable.

4 Learn about money. Read, attend workshops and join online communities focused on women and finance. Every bit of knowledge adds confidence.

5 Build an emergency fund. Work toward having three to six months of living expenses in a low-risk, liquid account. This may take gradual, consistent contributions, but ultimately, this cushion can help provide a sense of security as you navigate your new circumstances.

6 Review insurance and your employer benefits. Make sure your medical insurance coverage is adequate. Consider long-term care insurance to help preserve your retirement assets.

7 Estate planning. Work with an attorney to review beneficiary designations on bank and brokerage accounts while updating your will, powers of attorney and, as needed, a revocable living trust.

8 Social Security. If you were married 10 years or longer, understand your rights to Social Security benefits from your ex-spouse.

Rather than being the end, gray divorce can represent a new chapter. This International Women's Day, celebrate your resilience and your potential. The future is yours to shape, and it can be as bold, bright and fulfilling as you want it to be.

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

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## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

### OHIO LOCATIONS

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss, **Bryan:** 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart

**Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

**Continental:** ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy

**Defiance:** Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch

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

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

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

**Ney:** Marathon

**Oakwood:** Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Cooper Library, Landing Strip

**Paulding:** Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Gorrell Bros, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff's Office, PCH, PC

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

### INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

**Hoagland:** Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

**Milan Center:** Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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# WILDCATS HOLD OFF ARCHERS IN SECTIONAL OPENER AT MILLER CITY



Antwerp Junior Lincoln Lucas doesn't let the defense get in the way of this incredible shot for two points for the Archers! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

MILLER CITY — The postseason road came to a close for the Antwerp Archers on Wednesday night as they fell to host Miller City, 57-49, in the opening round of the OHSAA Division VII boys basketball tournament on February 26.

Antwerp (4-19) battled throughout, staying within striking distance for much of

the contest before the Wildcats pulled away late to secure the eight-point victory.

Miller City (18-5) held a slim 8-6 lead after the opening quarter and stretched its advantage to 22-17 by halftime. The Archers kept pace in the third quarter, pouring in 23 points to match the Wildcats' 24 in an up-tempo stretch that left Miller City clinging to a

46-40 edge heading into the final frame.

The Archers made several pushes in the fourth quarter but were unable to fully close the gap as Miller City added 11 points down the stretch to seal the 57-49 win.

Zaine McMichael led Antwerp with a game-high 23 points, connecting on six field goals and going 8-for-8 from the free-throw line. Weston Rhonehouse added 12 points, including four three-pointers, while Lincoln Lucas chipped in nine points. Hampton Rogge rounded out the scoring with five points.

Miller City placed four players in double figures, led by Jonny Pester with 15 points. Henry Rump followed with 14, Grady Troyer added 11, and Alex Ruck contributed 10.

Antwerp finished the night with 10 field goals, seven three-pointers, and 8-of-11 shooting from the free-throw line. Miller City totaled 11 field goals, eight triples, and went 11-of-15 at the stripe.

With this loss the Archers close out their season competing hard to the final buzzer in tournament action! Go Archers!

## WARRIORS TAKE HALFTIME LEAD, HOLD OFF SAINTS FOR ROAD VICTORY

FORT WAYNE — A strong second-half surge lifted the Woodlan Warriors past host Bishop Dwenger, 48-46, in boys basketball action on February 21 at Bishop Dwenger High School.

Woodlan set the tone early, taking a 12-10 lead at the end of the first quarter. The Warriors added 15 points in the second period to carry a 27-23

advantage into halftime. They maintained control in the third, entering the final frame in front 39-35, then held off a late Saints push in the fourth to secure the two-point win.

Junior forward Keaton Delagrance paced the Warriors with 13 points, while Ashtin Jacquay added 12. Camden Brooks finished with nine points, CJ Bullock scored five, and Tyler Friend added four. Alex Art chipped in three, with Cooper Smith and Collin Klepper each scoring two.

## GMC 2025-26 BOYS' ALL-CONFERENCE BOYS WRESTLING SELECTIONS

The Green Meadows Conference is proud to announce the Boys' All-Conference Selections and "Wrestler of the Year" for the 2025-2026 season:

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR: Thor Etter, Paulding

FIRST TEAM - 1st PLACE:

Colton Kimmel, Wayne Trace; Joshua Bishop, Tinora; Nolan Rittenhouse, Tinora; Landon Dasher, Paulding; Jackson Flower, Edgerton; Donovan Gill, Tinora; Trevor Sobota, Tinora; Brandon Gill, Tinora; Thor Etter, Paulding; Keegan Gray-Wyckoff, Antwerp; Jaxten DeWeese, Tinora; Levi Ankney, Ayersville; Eli Berner, Ayersville; Collin Kimmel, Ayersville

SECOND TEAM - 2nd PLACE:

Caleb Franklin, Hicksville; Leroy Gill, Tinora; Hunter Webb, Paulding; Karson Crites, Hicksville; Orlando Puente, Edgerton; Zac Salas, Antwerp; Ryan Johnson, Ayersville; Ivan Martinez, Paulding; Charlie Luevano Araiza, Hicksville; Brock Bailey, Tinora; Nico Moreno, Paulding; Gage Clevinger, Antwerp; Tucker Sprow, Ayersville; Avery Cooper, Paulding

HONORABLE MENTION - 3rd PLACE:

Levi Miller, Ayersville; Benjamin Gurney, Wayne Trace; Noah Campbell, Hicksville; Hudson Wright, Hicksville; Andrew Englehart, Ayersville; Brandon Hire, Wayne Trace; Kanon Freed, Hicksville; Adan Zacarias, Paulding; Logan Siwa, Ayersville; Colton Helmke, Tinora; Griffin Kosch, Antwerp; Gage Mullins, Fairview; Miguel Martinez, Paulding

The Green Meadows Conference added a girls' tournament this year with all eight schools participating and our first Girls' Wrestler of the Year.

## PANTHERS EARN ROAD WIN AT BLUFFTON

BLUFFTON — The Paulding Panthers turned in an efficient offensive performance and strong defensive effort to secure a 49-36 victory over Bluffton on February 20.

Paulding (17-4) shot nearly 60 percent from the field and controlled the glass to earn the 13-point win. The Panthers finished 22-of-37 from the floor (59.5%), including 5-of-12 from three-point range, while limiting Bluffton to 40.6 percent shooting.

Jalen Manz led the Panthers with 11 points, connecting on five field goals and adding a three-pointer. Tyler Goyings and Blake Rhonehouse each scored 10 points. Goyings knocked down two three-pointers, while Rhonehouse was a perfect 5-for-5 in-

# PAULDING COUNTY WRESTLERS SHINE AT GREEN MEADOWS CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT; ETTER NAMED PLAYER OF THE YEAR!



Dylan Hershberger 4th, Griffen Kosch 3rd, Ayersville wrestler, Thor Etter 1st. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Katerin Burtch 4th, Hicksville wrestler, Cami McAlexander 2nd, Tinora wrestler. Photo by Elias Jimenez

By: Carrie Kimmel

The county schools delivered an impressive showing on Saturday, February 21, at the Green Meadows Conference wrestling championships hosted by Ayersville High School.

Two Paulding County standouts — Wayne Trace's Colton Kimmel (120 lbs.) and Paulding's Thor "Stroker" Etter (165 lbs.)—captured their third consecutive GMC championships, each dominating their brackets with a clean sweep of pins.

Kimmel was unstoppable, pinning all three opponents in under a minute. He opened with a 30-second fall over Levi Miller (Ayersville), followed by a 17-second semifinal pin against Eli Guilford (Hicksville). He sealed the title with a 40-second victory over Leroy Gill (Tinora).

Etter matched that dominance in the 165-pound class. He pinned Griffin Kosch

(Antwerp) in 1:09, then dispatched Kolton Karzynow (Fairview) in 41 seconds. Etter secured his championship with a 1:25 pin over Ryan Johnson (Ayersville).

Paulding County boys wrestling added two more champions to the podium:

Landon Dasher (Paulding, 150 lbs.) After a first-round bye, Dasher pinned Braxton Peters (Antwerp) in 3:30. He battled to a 6-3 overtime win against Tucker Sprow (Ayersville) to claim the title.

Keegan Gray-Wyckoff (Antwerp, 285 lbs.) Gray-Wyckoff pinned Andrew Englehart (Ayersville) in 2:22, then toppled defending league champion Brock Bailey (Tinora) with a 4:24 fall in the finals.

Runner-Up Finishers: Paulding's Nico Moreno, Ivan Martinez, Avery Cooper, and Hunter Webb; Antwerp's Gage Clevinger and Zac Salas.

Third Place: Wayne Trace's

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(Continued on Page 7)

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- ✓ **Family Documents** - Birth Certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, two proofs of residency [utility bill, statement or documentation from a government agency, or medical bill --- each dated within 30 days]
- ✓ **School forms** - Enrollment Form, Enrollment Questionnaire, and Home Language Survey.

See the article for all the details of requirements.

**Call 260-446-0100 for more information**

Ben Gurney and Brandon Hire; Paulding's Miguel Martinez; Antwerp's Griffin Kosch.

Fourth Place: Wayne Trace's Dylan Hershberger, Waylon McCord, and Evan Benschneider; Paulding's Leonel Reyes, Adon Zacarios, Michael Clifford, and Trenton Bail; Antwerp's Braxton Peters.

Additional competitors included Antwerp's Landon Orozco, Paulding's Landon Shartzter, and Wayne Trace's Seth Rosswurm.

**Inaugural Girls GMC Tournament Makes History**

This year's event featured the first-ever Girls GMC Tournament, giving female wrestlers across the county a chance to compete for confer-

ence titles.

Wayne Trace's Karsyn Troth (130 lbs.) emerged as a standout champion. Troth pinned Layla Gale (Edgerton) in just 40 seconds, then secured the title with a 5:16 fall over Ellie Guillian (Tinora).

Girls' Placers:

Runner-Up: Paulding's Miracle Omonayin; Wayne Trace's MaKenna Schilt and Aries Ricker; Antwerp's Cami McAlexander and Maddilan Doster.

Third Place: Paulding's Harley Troyer and Kamryn Burk; Antwerp's Aleta Sorrell and Teagan Eaton.

Fourth Place: Paulding's Katerin Burtch; Antwerp's Haylee Lingenfelter and Kaira Jones; Wayne Trace's Kaitlynn Bauer.

in her final game in a Paulding uniform, knocking down two three-pointers. Kate Manz finished with five points, while Myrriah Manz and Kayleigh Dunham each added four. Estie Pease chipped in three.

Paulding connected on four three-point baskets, with

two from Addi Pease and one each from Kate Manz and Estie Pease. Delta's lone three-pointer came from Todd.

With the loss, Paulding closes its season at 20-3. Great season to the Paulding Lady Panthers!

*(Continued from Page 6)*

side the arc. Javvon Stiltner added nine points on 4-of-6 shooting, including a three-pointer.

Jordan Manz contributed four points, Xander Kuckuck hit a three for three points, and Gannon Parrett added two.

Paulding's balanced attack was complemented by solid rebounding and ball movement. The Panthers recorded 19 total rebounds (6 offensive, 13 defensive) and 14 assists. Defensively, they forced 14 Bluffton turnovers while committing 12 of their own.

Bluffton (9-12) was led by its perimeter shooting, hitting six three-pointers, but struggled to convert consistently inside. The Pirates finished 13-of-32 from the field and 6-of-18 from beyond the arc, adding four free throws.

**RAIDERS ROLL PAST OTTOVILLE BEHIND BALANCED ATTACK**

OTTOVILLE — A strong third-quarter surge helped propel the Wayne Trace Raiders to a 70-56 road victory over Ottoville on February 20.

Wayne Trace (14-8) built momentum throughout the first half, taking a 17-15 lead after one quarter and extending the advantage to 35-30 at halftime. The Raiders broke the game open in the third period, outscoring Ottoville 20-7 to take control heading into the final frame. Though the Big Green responded with 19 fourth-quarter points, Wayne Trace's cushion proved too much to overcome.

Carter Clemens led the Raiders with 21 points, converting 7-of-11 from two-point range and a perfect 7-

of-7 at the free-throw line. He also added 11 rebounds and three assists in a strong all-around performance.

Zach Stoller contributed 12 points on 6-of-8 shooting inside the arc, while Caden Sinn added 10 points, including a three-pointer. Lance Maenle scored nine points and dished out five assists, and Tanner Laukhuf chipped in eight points. Micah Sinn and Lane Wenninger each added three points, while Blake Noggle and Griffin Williamson finished with two points apiece.

Wayne Trace shot 18-of-35 from two-point range and 8-of-15 from beyond the arc, finishing 10-of-12 from the free-throw line. The Raiders controlled the boards with 31 total rebounds (11 offensive, 20 defensive) and tallied 15 assists in the win.

Ottoville (6-16) was led by Ashton Miller with 17 points and Gady Leach with 14. Nick Quartana added eight points, while Joe Leis and Ty Horstman each contributed five.

Wayne Trace also claimed the junior varsity contest, defeating Ottoville 45-29 to complete the road sweep.

**ROAD CLOSURE IN NEW HAVEN**

**DATES:** Beginning on or after Monday, March 2, 2026 through Monday, April 20, 2026.

**LOCATION:** Edgerton Road from Webster road to 1000 feet west of South Berthaud Road

**LANE CLOSURE:** Beginning on or after Monday, March 2nd, 2026, Edgerton Road from Webster Road to 1000 feet West of South Berthaud Road will be closed for first of three phases of road construction.

**RAIDERS RALLY LATE TO CLAIM DISTRICT SEMIFINAL WIN**



Wayne Trace Junior Amber Stoller has been an effective asset this entire season, shooting mostly from the inside, gathering rebounds, and pulling the team together. Here Amber works to get the rebound for the Lady Raiders! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

VAN WERT — Defense and a dominant fourth quarter lifted the Wayne Trace Lady Raiders to a 36-30 victory over Crestview in OHSAA Division VI District action on February 25 at Van Wert High School.

Wayne Trace (18-5) trailed entering the final period before erupting for 18 fourth-quarter points to punch its ticket to the district final.

The Raiders opened with a 9-4 first-quarter advantage, but offense proved hard to come by in the second period. Wayne Trace managed just two points in the quarter while Crestview trimmed the deficit to 11-10 at halftime.

Crestview (13-10) continued to battle in the third, outscoring the Raiders 10-7 to take a 20-18 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

That set the stage for

Wayne Trace's biggest surge of the night. The Raiders poured in 18 points over the final eight minutes while limiting Crestview to 10, turning a two-point deficit into a six-point win.

K Miller led Raiders with nine. Lexi Moore added eight. A Stoller finished with seven, while Caro. Winans contributed five. A Stoller and Care Winans chipped in four and three respectively.

Wayne Trace knocked down five three-pointers and went 7-of-8 from the free-throw line. Raiders controlled the glass with 20 defensive rebounds and finished with 12 steals in a strong defensive effort.

Crestview was led by K Gregory and P Hoffman with 10 points apiece. H McCoy added eight points, and K Harting finished with two.

**WHEN PANTHERS COLLIDE: DELTA CLAWS PAST PAULDING IN BATTLE OF THE LADY PANTHERS**



Paulding is set up for another good year with Juniors like Kate Manz making this shot under the basket for the Lady Panthers! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

DEFIANCE — Delta turned a half-time deficit into a second-half surge Saturday afternoon, February 21st, defeating Paulding 42-34 in Division V district semifinal action on its home floor.

Paulding carried a 21-18 lead into the locker room after outscoring Delta 14-11 in the opening quarter and holding even at seven points apiece in the second. However, Delta flipped the momentum after the break, outscoring Paulding 24-13 over the final two

quarters to secure the win and advance in the postseason.

Delta's Abbey Todd led all scorers with 16 points for the second-seeded Panthers (19-4), who avenged last season's district semifinal loss to Paulding. Anna Lohman added 12 points in the victory.

Paulding (20-3) was held to its second-lowest scoring output of the season — 17 points below its scoring average. Tori Schlatter paced the Panthers with 10 points. Addi Pease contributed eight points

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# THE LEFT TURN



Two local fan favorites moving to the USAC National Series. Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

Less than 3 weeks until Attica Raceway Park opens their 2026 season. Opening night is Friday, March 13th featuring the 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints, UMP Dirt Late Models and the 305 Winged Sprints. Just like in 2025 the rules have been updated for the 2026 season. The track and 410 Sprints will be following the All Star Circuit of Champion rules.

Many area racing fans that follow the USAC Midwest D2 Thunder Midgets will be happy to know two of the top drivers have acquired rides for the 2026 USAC NOS Midget National Championship Tour. For the past several years we have watched these two young guns battle it out at Limaland, Millstream, Fremont, Waynesfield and other tri-state tracks.

Jakeb Boxell, known as JB, has spent the past 2 seasons on the road with 4 Kings Racing as a mechanic and part-time driver on the team.

This year the Indiana native will get the opportunity to race for 4 Kings full-time in USAC NOS Midget National Championship competition in a two-car operation alongside teammate, Kevin Thomas Jr. Jakeb has 15 USAC National Midget starts dating back to his 2022 debut, and for the last couple of seasons, has been in the 4 Kings Racing stable. In 2025, he got the chance to make 12 feature starts and rewarded the team with a pair of top five finishes at Indiana's Bloomington Speedway (5th) and a career-best result at Ohio's famed Eldora Speedway (3rd). It's a testament that hard work and perseverance pays off, and now, he gets his opportunity on the 29-race tour this season. Jakeb began his racing career in karts before moving on to micro sprints and USAC's Midwest Thunder Midgets.

Zach Wigal (The Flying Ohioan) will race the bulk of the 2026 USAC National Midget season for O'Dell Motorsports.

Zach is the 2024 USAC National Midget Rookie of the Year and begins this season at the legendary Kokomo Speedway April 24-25.

Wigal has built a good resume early in his career. He captured the 2024 Series Championship and owns 1 career USAC National Midget win at Angell Park Speedway in 2024. Along with the National USAC Series, he will compete in select POWRi National Midget Events. He's looking forward to Indiana Midget week and BC39 at the dirt track at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Zach's schedule is subject to change, but area fans will be happy to know he will have a lot of Indiana races in June before the National Series goes to Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Illinois and Wisconsin. The closest he will be to us will be July 18th Montpelier Speedway Indiana; August 1st Fremont Speedway Ohio and he will make two stops at his home track in southern Ohio at Moler Raceway.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! (Ohio Sports Blitz)

## WESTERN BUCKEYE LEAGUE ALL LEAGUE GIRLS & BOYS BASKETBALL 2025-26 SEASON

Western Buckeye League (WBL) All-League Girls Basketball selections for the 2025-26 season.

### FIRST TEAM:

Rachel Rammel, Celina; Lilly Sifrit, Elida; Karsyn Erford, OG; Madison Mckee, OG; Ava Gadson, Shawnee; Sophia Menker, St. Marys

### SECOND TEAM:

Izzy McDermott, Bath; Jamie Rollins, Defiance; Emma Mitchell, Elida; Sydney Payne, Kenton; Alivia Grotthouse, OG; Cadence Wilson, Shawnee

### THIRD TEAM:

Mara Davis, Bath; Brenna Korte, Celina; Lexi Good, Elida; Allison Kuhlman, OG;

Audrey Reinecke, St. Marys; Audrey Welsch, Wapak HONORABLE MENTION:

Bath: Addy Rex; Celina: Brooke Baucher; Defiance: Aliana Stantz; Elida: Shae Rager; Kenton: Brylee Bostelman; OG: Savannah Recker; Shawnee: Alexis Whetstone; St. Marys: Claire Turner; Van Wert: Amaya Dowdy; Wapak: Sawyer Szelagowski

Player of the year: Karsyn Erford, OG

Coach of the Year: Troy Yant, OG

WBL Boys Basketball All-League Selections for the 2025-26 season.

### FIRST TEAM:

Logan Markley, Bath; Josiah Schlatter, Defiance; Brody Fortman, OG; Beckett Bertke, Shawnee; Trevick Bertke, Shawnee; Xavier Kelly, Van Wert

### SECOND TEAM:

Dagan Hawkins, Bath; Gavin Wicker, Celina; Jordan Schumaker, OG; Cohen Bragg, VW; Zach Crummey, VW; Ryan Richardson, Wapak

### THIRD TEAM:

Josiah Clark, Bath; Jon Payne, Elida; Luke Marshall, Shawnee; Griff McCracken, VW; Keaten Welch, VW; Blake Rogers, Wapak

HONORABLE MENTION:

Zach Welsch, Bath; Caleb Schlatter, Celina; Will Horvath, Defiance; Marcus Hill, Elida; Tayvion Glispie, Kenton; Adam Maag, OG; Ashton Wright, Shawnee, Blake Dingle, St. Marys; Caden Collins, VW; Caleb Adams, Wapak

Player of the Year: Beckett Bertke, Shawnee; Trevick Bertke, Shawnee

Coach of the Year: Mark Triplett, Shawnee

## ACPL LAUNCHES "CHILD'S FIRST LIBRARY CARD" TO CELEBRATE A MILESTONE MOMENT FOR FAMILIES



(FORT WAYNE, IN) - The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is introducing a new way to celebrate one of childhood's earliest milestones: a very first library card.

The new Child's First Library Card features a kid-friendly design created especially for children receiving their first library card. Available beginning at birth, the card gives families the opportunity to start building early literacy from day one. A child's first library card is more than just a way to check out books — it's a rite of passage. The ACPL's card is designed to make that moment even more memorable, encouraging families to celebrate together while opening the door to stories, learning, and discovery.

Parents and caregivers can obtain the Child's First Library Card for their child as soon as they are born. The card provides full access to ACPL's extensive collection of books, board books, audiobooks, music, movies, digital

# NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



Outgoing Board Chair Katrina DeGroff was presented with a plaque in recognition of her service in that capacity. She is pictured with NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez.

The Northwest State Community College Board of Trustees met in regular session on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the Archbold campus. As part of the meeting's agenda, the Board elected its new Chair, Vice Chair and Second Vice Chair for the period of February 2026 to February 2027. Mickey Schwarzbeek (Defiance County) was elected Chair, Joel Miller (Henry County) was elected Vice Chair, and John Poulson (Henry County) was elected as Second Vice Chair by the Board. NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez offered remarks of gratitude for Katrina DeGroff, who served as Chair for the 2025-2026 period, for her valued dedication and

service to the College.

### ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Prior to electing its new officers for 2026-2027, the Board reviewed and approved the 2025-2026 revised budget. The revised budget is \$47,844,876, which is a net adjustment of (\$553,698). Sandra Barber and John Poulson were appointed as Delegate and Alternate from the Board to serve on the governing board of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) for the period of February 2026 through February 2027. Finally, the Board confirmed the following upcoming meeting dates: Friday, April 17, Thursday, June 25, Friday, August 28, Friday, October 16, Friday, December 11, and Friday, February 19 (2027).

In other Board action:

Approved the employment of Dhafir Almansoori (Faculty, Engineering Technology [Mechanical]), Peter Runk (Faculty, Industrial Technology [Welding]), Britany Waidelich (Administrative Assistant, Industrial Technologies & Black Swamp Safety Council), Sid-

ney Faine (Success Coach [TRIO]), Tiffany Rodriguez (p/t Wildfire Sales Coordinator), and Jason "Jay" Baun (Working Supervisor, Facility Maintenance).

Approved the promotion of Terry King to Executive Director of Enterprise Solutions and IR, and Jamie Zeller to Director of Data Systems.

Approved the following program inactivations: Network Administration, Associate of Applied Business (term effective summer 2021), Cybersecurity, Associate of Applied Business (term effective summer 2021), and Paralegal, Associate of Applied Business (term effective fall 2021).

Approved curriculum changes for multiple courses, which is part of ongoing curriculum development, pursuant to House Bill 96.

Approved the fulfillment of a performance audit by the Auditor of State.

Approved the 2024-2025 College (financial) audit.

Approved miscellaneous employment contracts.

Approved one resignation, and one retirement.

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## COUNCIL UNLOCKS \$25,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FOR COOPER LODGE PROJECT



The Black Swamp Area Council has successfully completed a matching campaign tied to a \$25,000 challenge grant from the Defiance County Capital Projects Fund, a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella. The Council raised \$25,000 to

unlock the grant, with all funds helping to complete the remaining financing needed for the Cooper Lodge and Keith Hubbard Dining Hall. The grant was presented by DAF Board President Dan Michel to Scout Executive Marc Kogan.

## EASTSIDE EDGES WOODLAN 66-64 IN OVERTIME THRILLER

WOODBURN — Fans at Woodlan High School witnessed a dramatic finish Tuesday night as Eastside outlasted the Warriors 66-64 in overtime on February 17. Woodlan came out strong, building a 21-15 lead after the first quarter and taking a 28-21 advantage into halftime. Eastside steadily chipped away in the third quarter, trimming the deficit to 34-32 heading into the fourth.

The Blazers continued their push in the final period, outscoring the Warriors 18-16 to knot the game at 50-50 and force overtime.

In the extra session, Eastside executed in the closing moments, edging Woodlan 16-14 in overtime to secure the two-point victory.

Woodlan was led by Jacquay with 16 points, Art added 14, while Brooks finished with 13. Delagrange contributed 10, and Klepper chipped in nine as the Warriors showcased balanced scoring throughout the contest.

Eastside was paced by Baker's 26-point performance, Dickerhoff added 18 points, and Ruckman finished with 10. Elden and Dale also contributed key buckets as the Blazers kept pace and ultimately prevailed in the extra frame.

The tightly contested matchup featured multiple lead changes and strong performances on both sides, with Eastside making the fi-

nal plays necessary to escape with the 66-64 road win.

## CARDINAL PLANT TO RECEIVE PART OF \$175M DOE GRANT SUPPORTING COAL-FIRED GENERATION

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has selected Buckeye Power's coal-fired Cardinal Plant as one of six national projects to receive a share of \$175 million in federal funding.

Kyger Creek Station, which is part of the Ohio Valley Electric Corporation (OVEC), and partially owned by Buckeye Power, Inc., was also named as a recipient.

The DOE grant was established to modernize, retrofit and extend the operational life of coal-fired power plants serving rural communities while also supporting grid reliability and energy affordability.

The funds will be directed toward critical upgrades for Cardinal Plant's Units 1 and 2.

The \$175-million initiative is part of a broader federal strategy to strengthen the national electric grid by keeping reliable, existing, and efficient coal-fired generation plants online.

"We are grateful to be selected and excited for the opportunity to use these funds on projects that will make Cardinal station even more efficient," said Craig Grooms, President and CEO of Buckeye Power Inc., and Ohio's Rural Electric Cooperatives. "Coal-fired power generation has served our cooperatives in Ohio well for decades and has allowed us to keep electricity

reliable and affordable for our members. Cardinal Plant is a crucial component of our diverse power generation resource mix, and we continue to believe coal plants have a critical role to play in meeting growing, future demand for electricity."

Buckeye Power, Inc. has not been notified how much of the \$175 million it will receive.

About Buckeye Power, Inc. and Ohio's Electric Cooperatives:

Ohio's Electric Cooperatives is the statewide association that represents the 24 not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperatives in Ohio that provide electricity to more than 1-million people in 77 of Ohio's 88 counties. Buckeye Power, Inc. is the member-owned power generation company for Ohio's electric cooperatives and utilizes an "all-of-the-above" approach to power generation, including coal, natural gas, hydropower, solar, wind and biogas, in its power generation portfolio.

Cardinal Plant, the coal-fired generation plant owned by Buckeye Power, Inc., is located in Brilliant, Ohio and is the primary source of electricity for Ohio's electric cooperatives.

## LOGICAL FARM CHANGES

Farm logic is hard to define and put into use. Before Albert Einstein died, a reporter interviewed him. He decided to ask: Define Logic? Albert Einstein answered with a question: What does Logic mean?

Einstein shared this story. "Two men entered a chimney to clean it. One man comes out with a dirty face, the second comes out with a clean face. Using logic, which man will clean his face?" The reporter replied quickly, "The man with the dirty face!"

Einstein answered, "NO. You are wrong! The man with the dirty face will look at the man with the clean face and assume his face is clean. He will do nothing. The man with the clean face will look at the man with the dirty face, and assume his face is dirty, and he will clean, wash and scrub his face, even though it is already clean."

The reporter thought for a moment, agreed, and said, "That sounds logical!" Einstein just shook his head and said, "NO! You are wrong again! First, there is nothing logical about two men entering a chimney to clean a chimney. Second, there is nothing logical about one man coming out of a dirty chimney with a clean face and another with a dirty face! Logic on its face can collapse!"

Einstein continued, "Too often we ask flawed questions! If we ask flawed questions, too often we answered with flawed solutions. Put another way: Are we teaching to do wrong better? Einstein concluded, "Any fool can know there is a problem but can you understand the problem. Understanding the problem leads to better solutions."

Looking at the USA farm situation today, USA farmers were number 1 in soybean production until 2024. Brazil is now the number one producer of soybeans at 40% (USA 28%) producing 171 million metric tons of soybeans (USA, 119 MMT). Argentina is third at 12% and 51.1 MMT of soybeans.

## KENNERKS DONATE \$25,000 TO SUPPORT LOCAL VETERANS THROUGH CANINES FOR VALOR FUND



Pictured with the donation are (L to R) Peter and Maureen Kennerk, Erin Clady - Defiance County Veterans' Office Managing Service Officer, Crystal Ankney - Defiance County Veterans' Office Benefit Counselor, Merle Ankney - support dog, and Nate Metz - Defiance County Veterans' Office Service Officer.

The Defiance Area Foundation would like to recognize and sincerely thank Peter and Maureen Kennerk for their generous \$25,000 donation to the Canines for Valor Fund.

This gift was made through the Foundation to support the Canines for Valor Fund, which was created in

2023 in partnership with the Defiance County Veterans Office. The fund provides highly trained service dogs to local disabled veterans, helping them gain greater independence and improve their quality of life. Funds may also be used for animal care, maintenance, fees, and transporta-

tion necessary to purchase and place these specially trained "canines for valor."

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful for the Kennerks' compassion and generosity and for their commitment to honoring and supporting local veterans in such a meaningful way.

Brazil is a low-cost producer and the USA is a high-cost producer. The USA is the producer of last resort. USA uses more fertilizer and pesticides to produce 53 bushel of soybeans per acre on average and has or had better soils but we are losing out due to high cost. Brazil started out with Oxisols soil, highly weathered worn out sandy soils, that are now transitioning closer to Mollisols soils, better known as dark black prairie soils. Brazil averages 50-55 bushel soybeans per acre, similar to the USA. How is that possible?

Brazil did not follow the European way of conventional farming by doing tillage. The whole country uses no-till and cover crops. If they did not, they could not farm. They take the minerals and the organic matter in the trees, burn it up (still a waste) but they preserve the minerals which they spread out on the land as their fertilizer. Then they plant a cover crop or put it into pasture for a couple of years before they start planting a crop of soybeans.

All soybeans are no-tilled before a heavy cover crop and they use very little fertilizer or pesticides. If they did not use no-till and cover crops, their soils get so hard and dense, they erode away and their farm is ruined. The same thing happens in the USA, only at a slower rate. Over 20-30 years, they have changed their soils to become quite productive by using the cover crops to recycle soil minerals and to build soil organic matter to improve water infiltration, drainage, and to store more plant nutrients. They also have the advantage of longer growing seasons and more rainfall (60 inches on average).

Brazil's has about 25% of its rain forest converted to farm-

land, an area the size of all USA farms. They plan to convert another 25% of their forested land to cropland. It use to take 3 days to transport their product to market. With the help of China, they now have invested money in roads, bridges, ports, trains, and storage; they transport it to export markets on the ocean in one day. Perhaps, the USA should look at Brazil and look at how we are farming to see how we can do better?

Quoting Albert Einstein, "I hope the majority of people Disagree with me! Why? Because if you disagree, logically you have to question yourself and start asking the right questions. If you agree with me, it forces you to look at your own farm management and see how you line up. However, you can lead a horse to water, you can not force it to drink. It still requires action on your part to understand the problem and fix it. Good Luck!"

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

## HARRISON COUNTY DEER PROCESSOR PLEADS GUILTY TO MULTIPLE WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife has concluded an

investigation into a white-tailed deer processor in Harrison County which resulted in 35 individuals being convicted of a total of 55 violations.

During the investigation, dubbed Operation Donor Deer, the Division of Wildlife's law enforcement officers and investigators discovered numerous wildlife violations by Rodney Shields, 59, of Harrisville, the owner of Rod's Custom Deer Processing. Violations included the unlawful sale of venison, much of which came from checked deer that were donated and meant to go to local food pantries.

Shields pleaded guilty to seven charges in Harrison County Common Pleas Court. He was ordered to pay \$16,500 in restitution, to be divided among victims whose venison was stolen and sold, and ODNR Division of Wildlife. Shields also received 17 months of suspended jail time and two years of community control. Shields pleaded guilty to felony counts of obstructing justice, theft by deception, and illegal sales, as well as three misdemeanor charges for theft and one for possession of untagged deer.

Among the other defendants in the case were Robert Sliva, 66, of Har-

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## DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY MAKERSPACE GIFTED NEW 3D PRINTER



An anonymous donor recently gifted a new, state-of-the-art 3D printer, along with a handheld Einstar 3D scanner, to the MakerSpace at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St. The printer, a Bambu Lab H2C, arrived Feb. 19, and is already expected to make a big impact.

The Bambu Lab H2C is a powerful, fully enclosed 3D printer designed to make professional-quality printing fast, reliable, and easy. It offers a generous build area of approximately 330 x 320 x 325 mm, ultra-fast print speeds up to 1,000 mm/s, and the ability to automatically switch between multiple nozzles for multi-color printing.

Unlike the library's other printer, which requires filament to be flushed before switching colors, the H2C's switchable extruder heads reduce plastic waste and significantly lower print costs. It will also help reduce demand on the library's Bambu Lab X1C, which has been running almost nonstop. The library is also phasing out its MakerBot Replicator+, as the machine is no longer supported.

"The other printer was always going; I had a huge

queue of prints," said Cara Bolley, Emerging Technologies Lead at Defiance Public Library System.

The cost savings are already clear. Tennis ball magnets recently printed for Defiance High School students' lockers — roughly the size of half of a real tennis ball — cost \$1.22 each on the new printer, compared to \$4.11 on the X1C.

The donor also gifted a handheld 3D scanner, which will be available for public use once the video card is installed. The card was expected to arrive Feb. 24.

Community members interested in 3D printing can design their own creations using Tinkercad (tinkercad.com) or download ready-made files from sites like Thingiverse (thingiverse.com) and MakerWorld (makerworld.com).

"We are very grateful for our donor, who has made it possible for us to provide this service to the community," Bolley said.

For more information, or to schedule an appointment to try it out for yourself, contact Bolley at 419-782-1456 ext. 1108 or cbolley@defiancepubliclibrary.org

risville, and Thomas Bibeau, 53, of Deerfield, NH. Sliva pleaded guilty to three misdemeanors for illegal sale of wild animals, failure to keep accurate records, and pos-

session of untagged deer parts. He was ordered to pay a \$500 fine as well as court costs, complete one year of probation, and serve 30 days in jail, suspended. Bibeau pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor for failing to properly complete the game check process. He was ordered to pay a \$500 fine and court costs, complete one year of probation, forfeit his hunting license for one year, and serve 60 days in jail, suspended.

Defendants received a total of \$6,313 in fines, eight years of hunting license sus-

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pensions, and 24 months of suspended jail time.

The Division of Wildlife is dedicated to enforcing laws that protect Ohio's wildlife. Input and concern from the public are integral to those enforcement efforts. Anyone who witnesses a wildlife violation in Ohio can call the Turn in a Poacher (<https://ohiodnr.gov/rules-and-regulations/rules-for-landowners/turn-in-a-poacher>) hotline at 1-800-POACHER (1-800-762-2437). Reports are kept anonymous. Information that results in a conviction of a wildlife crime may result in a reward.

Ohio wildlife officers have statewide authority to enforce wildlife regulations and protect state lands, waterways, and property. As state law enforcement officers, they contribute to public safety in their local areas and Ohio's great outdoors. They also speak to hundreds of clubs and groups about conservation and wildlife programs, perform fish and wildlife surveys, and provide technical advice and instruction about wildlife management issues, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor related recreation.

### MCPHERSON, MESSERSCHMIDT AND PUSKAR ELECTED TO OPSMA HALL OF FAME

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Ohio Prep Sports Media Association has announced the 2026 induction class into the OPSMA Hall of Fame, which includes Denny McPherson from the Marion Star, Dan Messerschmidt from the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum and Crawford County Now, and Tom Puskar from the Ashland Times-Gazette and Mansfield News Journal.

The OPSMA Hall of Fame induction ceremony will take place during the

OHSAA boys basketball state finals at the University of Dayton Arena on Saturday, March 21. The three honorees will join 78 sportswriting greats previously enshrined in the OPSMA Hall of Fame.

Biographical information for all three inductees is below. The OPSMA inducted its first Hall of Fame class in 1983. The complete list is posted at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA/HOF>

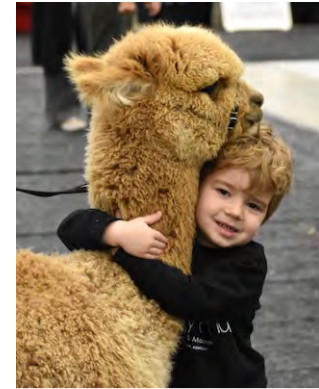
The OPSMA was created in 1972 to support, promote and recognize the coverage of high school sports across Ohio. More information is available at: <https://www.ohsaa.org/news/OPSWA>

Denny McPherson has been involved with high school and youth sports in Marion County for 46 years and has covered everything from state championships to youth baseball, while also becoming one of the state's leading bowling writers along the way.

Denny got his start in sportswriting at The Lantern at The Ohio State University and graduated in 1979. He then returned to his home county and spent 36 years as a sportswriter for the Marion Star, where he covered Marion County's six high schools and wrote a golf and bowling weekly column. He retired from the Star in 2015, but has remained active keeping the official basketball scorebook at his alma mater, Elgin High School.

Among many awards during his career, Denny was honored with the OHSAA's Central District Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Media Service Award and the Marion County Athletic Boosters Association Service Award.

Bowling has also been a big party of Denny's career. Denny was inducted into the Marion Bowling Council



2026 Mazuri AOA National Alpaca Show Returns to Fort Wayne March 13-15

FORT WAYNE, IN — The 2026 Mazuri Alpaca Owners Association (AOA) National Alpaca Show, presented by Cedar & Sage Alpacas, Red Granite Ranch, and Tierra Prometida Alpacas, will return to Fort Wayne March 13-15 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. Admission is free.

Recognized as the premier alpaca event of the year, the national show draws hundreds of alpaca owners, breeders, fiber artists, and enthusiasts from across the country. More than 500 alpacas will gather under one roof to compete in show ring classes evaluating both conformation and fleece quality. Competitions will include numerous categories for both Suri and Huacaya alpacas.

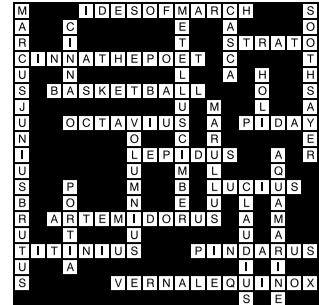
Show hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 13; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 14; and 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon on Sunday, March 15.

Hall of Fame for his newspaper coverage of bowling in the Marion area and received the Marion County Bowling Association Francis Warwick Memorial Award. Denny also received the Marion County International Raceway Service Award and the Buckeye American Legion Baseball Champions of Character Award.

Dan Messerschmidt started his sportswriting career in the fall of 1987 as a fill-in stringer for the Bucyrus Telegraph-Forum and is still writing in Crawford County 39 years later. He joined the Ohio Prep Sports Writers Association (now Sports Media) in the early-to-mid-90s and eventually served as president of the association.

Dan covered sports for the Telegraph-Forum for 30 years while also working in purchasing for a local manufacturer. In 2017, he transitioned to the North Central Ohio Media group (Saga Communications), which encompasses WQEL and WBCO radio stations and Crawford County Now online. As the Sports Director, he is mostly responsible for online content and compiles the schedules for broadcasts of football, basketball, and baseball games.

Dan won several awards from the OPSMA and was also named the Associated Press Columnist of the Year. However, Dan says that his driving force was being allowed to cover high school sports for a small community. When Dan began, he looked at the old-timers of that era in awe — names like Randy Heath, Tom Metters, Odie O'Donnell, Hobart Wilson, Don Hohler, Dick Zunt — never imaging he



Crossword solution from page 9

In addition to the competitions, visitors can browse a vibrant marketplace featuring luxurious alpaca yarn, warm apparel, and unique alpaca-themed gifts. Educational displays and interactive exhibits will provide fun and learning opportunities for the entire family.

A crowd favorite, the Alpaca Selfie Booth, will return this year. Guests can take photos with an alpaca at no charge, and volunteers will be available to help capture the perfect shot.

The popular Alpaca Costume Contest will take place Saturday, March 14 at noon. Participants of all ages will enter the ring alongside their alpacas in imaginative costumes. Entries will be judged on creativity, the animal's comfort with costume elements, and a written story accompanying each design.

For more information, visit [www.alpacanationals.com](http://www.alpacanationals.com).

Stay tuned for additional updates and special announcements as the show approaches.

would be mentioned among them.

Tom Puskar is an award-winning photojournalist with nearly 40 years of experience capturing the definitive moments of North Central Ohio sports. His career began at Mount Union College through an internship with The Alliance Review. This was followed by a distinguished 33-year tenure at the Ashland Times-Gazette, including 26 years as Chief Photographer. A forward-thinking leader in the field, Tom spearheaded the technological transition from film to digital photography for both the Ashland Times-Gazette and all of Dix Communications newspapers.

Nationally, Tom has been a freelance photographer for the Associated Press since 1990. His portfolio includes coverage of NFL and MLB games, and he has been a consistent presence at the Little League World Series, documenting the tournament annually from 2003 through 2024.

Tom photographed the OHSAA softball state tournament at Brookside Park in Ashland for 17 years. He also photographed the OHSAA wrestling state tournament for 20 plus years both for the Ashland Times-Gazette and their sister Dix Communications publications. He is a recipient of numerous APME awards for sports photography. Since leaving the Ashland Times-Gazette in 2023 he continues to contribute his expertise as a freelancer for the Mansfield News Journal.

Tom and his wife of 15 years, Heather Beasley, recently moved into their newly built dream home in Richland County.

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# FAIRVIEW FFA CELEBRATES COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SUCCESS



By: Asia Brubaker

On Saturday, the 21st, the Fairview FFA Chapter held its annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction. The event brought together community members, families, and supporters for a morning of great food, all while supporting our local chapter.

As a chapter, we would like to give a huge thank-you to the many local businesses and community members who donated items for the silent auction or gave their time to help make the event a success. Your continued support means so much to our chapter and directly impacts the opportuni-

ties available to our members.

Because of the generosity of our community, this year's Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction was another success. We are incredibly grateful for the support and look forward to representing Fairview as 11 of our members receive their State FFA Degrees this spring.

## AREA WRITERS INVITED TO ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN PAULDING

The Paulding Writers' Group is hosting its third annual Writers' Conference on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at the main branch of the Paulding County Carnegie Library. The writers' group is once again partnering with the library to provide a day of encouragement and inspiration for aspiring and seasoned writers.

"The library is honored to host this event to help people develop their writing craft and give them avenues for the expression of their art,"

said library director Corey Walker. "I am amazed at the talented writers that we have in Northwest Ohio."

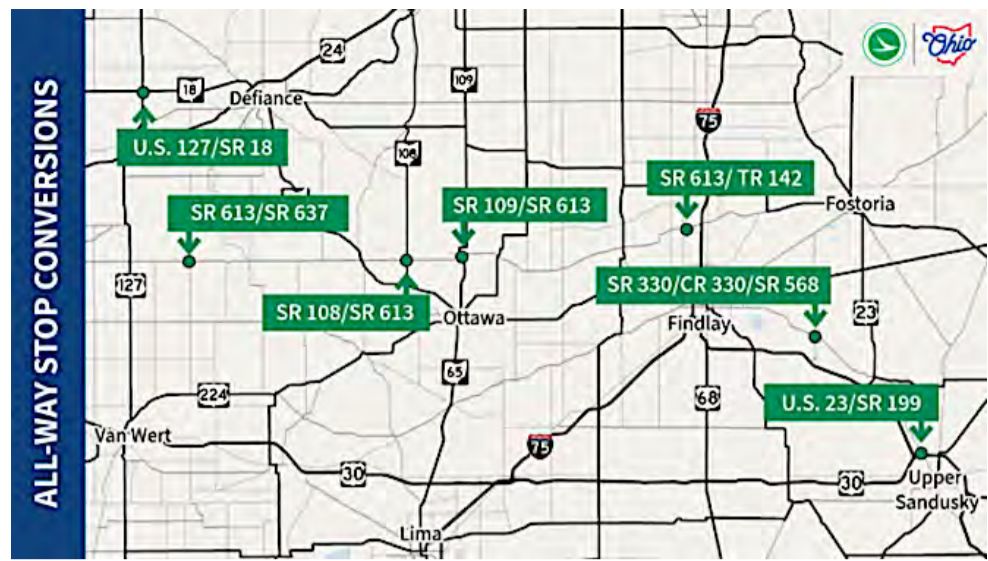
Keynote speaker Kimberly Wyse, author of *Looking Up When Life Falls Down: Shattered Dreams, Medical Miracles, & Restored Hope*, is presenting a session about the story arc at the conference. Other presentations include topics on where to begin writing, writing from your experiences, publishing pathways, as well as workshop sessions on poetry and writing from your observations.

Sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00

p.m., with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. and a dessert and coffee hour at the conclusion, where participants can informally visit with the authors and have an opportunity to purchase books.

There is a to attend this conference, with the proceeds benefitting the Friends of the Paulding County Carnegie Library. A light breakfast and lunch are included. To register, email Corey Walker at [cwalker@mypccl.org](mailto:cwalker@mypccl.org) or call the library at 419-399-2032. You can also go to the library in person to sign up. The deadline to register is April 3.

## EIGHT INTERSECTIONS TO BE CONVERTED TO ALL-WAY STOP IN NORTHWEST OHIO



LIMA, Ohio (Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026) - The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1 will convert eight intersections to all-way stops to improve safety.

The project, expected to begin in March, is part of a statewide initiative that will implement all-way stops at select intersections throughout Ohio.

The locations selected for conversion are where crash data found the most common type of crash was the result of a failure to stop or a failure to yield to cross-traffic that was not required to stop.

"These intersections have a higher rate of angle crashes, which often result in serious injuries or fatalities," said Chris Hughes, ODOT District 1 deputy director. "Our goal is zero fatalities. When all approaches are expected to stop, crash severity is significantly reduced," he said.

The work will take place over the next three months; the locations and expected

timing of the closures are detailed below:

**March 9**  
**Defiance County** - State Route 18 (Defiance Avenue)/U.S. 127 (Harrison Street), village of Sherwood  
**Wyandot County** - U.S. 23/State Route 199, both interchange ramps, city of Upper Sandusky

**April 6**  
**Hancock County** - State Route 330/State Route 568/County Road 330, near the village of Vanlue

**Hancock County** - State Route 613/Township Road 142, near the village of Van Buren

**May 4**  
**Paulding County** - State Route 613/State Route 637, near the village of Melrose

**Putnam County** - State Route 108/State Route 613, near the village of Miller City

**Putnam County** - State Route 109/State Route 613, near the village of West Leipsic

Message boards to alert

drivers of the changes will be placed approximately two weeks prior and remain on site for approximately two weeks after the change to remind motorists of the new traffic pattern. All approaches of the intersections will be equipped with flashing stop-ahead signs.

ODOT will continue to monitor the intersections to ensure the all-way stop is operating as intended.

Throughout Ohio, ODOT is reviewing intersections to determine where all-way stops could make travel safer. The solution has been found to improve intersection safety in other states. Since 2018, the state of North Carolina converted over 500 intersections from a typical two-way to all-way stop control. Their analysis of 348 of these locations showed a 100% reduction in fatal crashes and 95% reduction in serious injury crashes. Similar results were also seen in the state of Delaware.

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