

PAULDING CLAIMS SECTIONAL WRESTLING TITLE; ETTER LEADS COUNTY WITH CHAMPIONSHIP WIN



Paulding's Landon Dasher earned his 100th Win at the Sectional competition in Lima!

By: Carrie Kimmel

The sectional wrestling tournament at Lima Central Catholic delivered a full day of high-level competition, with the top four finishers in each weight class advancing to Districts and fifth-place wrestlers earning alternate status for a potential opportunity to compete.

Paulding High School captured the Sectional Team

Championship with 154.4 points, while Wayne Trace finished in a tie for ninth place and Antwerp placed thirteenth.

Thor "Stroker" Etter stood atop the podium as the county's only sectional champion, claiming the 157-pound title. Etter opened with a first-round bye before pinning Antwerp's Braxton Peters in 2:14. He continued his domi-

nant run with a 21-9 major decision over Coldwater's Matt Uhlenhake in the semifinals. Etter sealed the championship with a 1:44 pin over Crestview's Luke Sawmiller.

Four other county wrestlers reached the championship round:

- 113 pounds – Brandon Hire (Paulding): After two

(Continued on Page 6)

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION PLANNED FOR LIBRARIAN: JAMY MANSON

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is pleased to announce the retirement celebration for Jamy Manson. Jamy started her career at the library on October 20, 2010, where she has been a clerk in the Adult and Teen sections of the library. She brought with her a smile and friendly attitude, always ready to help everyone who walks in the library. Jamy is always willing to plan crafts, desserts for Coffee Talk and use her creativeness with Cookbook Club. Please join us as we celebrate Jamy on her new journey on Tuesday March 17th, from 4-6 pm at the library at 205 South Main Street, Paulding. Stop by for some light refreshments and lively conversations.

LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS AWARDED SMALL COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT GRANT

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) is pleased to announce that fire departments across Defiance, Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert counties have been awarded more than \$806,000

(Continued on Page 2)



Joe R Burkard

BURKARD RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS AS PAULDING COUNTY PROSECUTOR

The Paulding County Prosecutor's Office wishes to congratulate Prosecuting Attorney Joseph R. Burkard on his retirement after 30 years of service as the Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney.

Mr. Burkard is a graduate of the University of Findlay, and the University of Toledo School of Law. He began his legal career in 1993 with the law firm currently known as Cook & Gorrell, in Paulding, Ohio, and was elected as Paulding County Prosecutor in 1996. In 2017, he left the private practice of law to serve solely as Prosecuting Attorney.

(Continued on Page 3)

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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- Dooley FH – Pier obituary 2
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- Edward Jones Bryan Post 5
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- Holmes – Bonnie English 2
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- Klopfenstein Repair 8
- Mount Calvary 2
- Paulding KofC Fish Frys 3
- PC Library Bid Notice 9
- PC SWCD Cash Report Notice 9
- PC Tax Notice CI 25 092 9
- PC Veteran's Service 4
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- PCH Spring Health Fair 6
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- United Edge March Equip Auction 7
- United Edge Sportsman Auction 6

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 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

March 12

- Chocolate Extravaganza @ Cooper Comm. Library, Oakwood, 7p
- Family Literacy Night @ Antwerp Elem., 4-6p
- Community Lenten Service @ Auglaize Chapel Church, Oakwood, 7p

March 13

- Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p

March 14

- Antwerp Rotary Steak Fry @ Paulding Eagles 5-7p

March 17

- Alzheimer Consult Walk-Ins @ PC Senior Center, 9-10a
- Caregiver Support Group @ PC Senior Center, 10a

March 18

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



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THE SCHOOL BUS

Penny for Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

Living in the country we rode the big yellow school bus to school. I was about the luckiest girl on the route because I was the first one on the bus, but the last one off. At least I got to see where everyone lived and I knew exactly where the bus route was going to go.

When we lived over by Middle Point, there was a big long lane I had to walk to get up to the road to catch the bus. When the snow and cold came we did not cancel school, but bundled up in heavy coats, boots, gloves and hats.

I remember being very little, but knew how to tell the big guys they could not sit by me. I guess I was rude but teasing me was normal when I was in Grade School. Then we moved from the Middle Point house to one over by Grover Hill. My school bus driver was Ezra Rager, a very friendly nice bus driver.

My grandma made these huge sugar cookies and many times I treated Ezra to a cookie. One day it was sort of a chilly day and Spring wasn't there yet. Mom told me to wear a sweater and I thought I would pull a fast one and sneak off without it. Well how embarrassing. My mom was waiting when I got off the bus with her trusty little ping pong paddle and gave me a spanking. Yes they spanked back in those days.

What did we do on the school bus? We chatted, ate something if we had any packed lunch left over and discussed who played the best game of jacks at recess. I remember someone puking on the bus and I was glad it wasn't on me. We were lucky to be able to ride the school bus, because I have heard stories of my grandma and mom having to walk over a mile whether cold or hot to get to school.

It was always fun riding the bus because I looked at all the kids who got new white bucks or saddle shoes. Then it was fun when all of us gals wore poodle skirts

with can-cans under them and took up the biggest part of the seat when you got on the bus with something new it was common to strut your stuff so everyone could see your new duds.

When it was hot on the bus we could put down windows for cool air and when cold you wore extra clothing.

Everything was fun even riding the long school bus ride. I never had a bus driver who hollered at us or kicked us off the bus. If we got in trouble on the bus, we would get in trouble at home.



Have you ever walked in the cold and snow for miles to get to school? Did you get to eat on the bus? Did you give your bus driver cookies? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts!

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtzberry

Robert Patterson Staley is another Paulding County young man with a sad ending. Robert Patterson Staley was born May 17, 1895, in Paulding, Ohio, the son of Edward S. and Blanche (Patterson) Staley. Edward S. Staley was born in Lafayette, Indiana, March 7, 1858, and later became a popular Paulding County sheriff, elected November 3, 1891. Blanche was born July 25, 1867, in Fostoria, Ohio. Ed and Blanche were married May 11, 1892, in Paulding, Ohio, by Judge Lafayette Lewis.

By 1900, the Staley family consisted of a daughter, Jessie P., born in April of 1885. She

was the daughter of Edward and his first wife, Elva (Day) Staley. Elva passed away due to complications from childbirth on July 1, 1886. The family also included two sons, Nelson, born in April of 1893, and Robert, born in May of 1895. Edward was employed as a timber dealer, and all the children were in school.

On October 22, 1903, the Staley family welcomed another son, John Edward. By 1910, the Staley family was living at 520 Main Street in Paulding. On August 22, 1911, Robert's brother Nelson accidentally drowned while visiting St. Ignace, Michigan. His body was brought home and buried in Live Oak Cemetery.

By 1916, Robert was a college student at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Robert was a member of the Varsity Social Club, serving as vice president. By 1917, every able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 45 had to register for the draft. On May 31, 1917, Robert did so. He was listed as tall, slender, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with brown eyes and dark brown hair.

Robert went to California in mid-1917 and ended up getting married. The young woman was Nelle G. Murgidge. They were married August 5, 1917, by minister F. S. Brush. After that, the trail of their marriage goes cold, and it is not clear what happened. Robert later returned to Ohio, where on May 12, 1918, he went to Cincinnati and signed up to join the Marine Corps.

Robert was sent to Parris Island, South Carolina. By July 31, 1918, Robert was working with the Overseas Depot Headquarters Company in Quantico, Virginia. On August 7, 1918, Robert was serving with Company C, Separate Battalion, and was promoted to sergeant on August 21, 1918.



Robert Patterson Staley

Robert was sent to Brooklyn, New York, where he boarded the ship Aeolus and was shipped overseas to Brest, France, on August 27, 1918. On October 1, 1918, while in France on the Meuse-Argonne front, Robert was serving with the Second Division. Then on October 16, 1918, Robert was serving with the 84th Company, 6th Regiment.

After the end of the war, Robert served in the Army of Occupation, working in the office of the Chief Paymaster. He served in that position until April 2, 1919. On June 19, 1919, Robert was sent back to the 84th Company, 6th Regiment. Robert served in France until August 26, 1919.

Robert was shipped home on the ship Aeolus, arriving in New York on September 5, 1919. On September 7, 1919, Robert served with the 140th Casual Company in Quantico, Virginia. Robert was honorably discharged with excellent character on September 22, 1919 (File Number 116364).

Now I know you, the reader, are wondering where the sad ending is.

In 1920, Robert was living in Cincinnati, working as a night chef at the Hotel Gibson before moving back to Paulding. Robert moved in with his parents on Water Street, where he got a job as a hotel manager.

In 1924, Robert was scheduled to set sail out of New York to Bermuda on the ship Express of Britain. On March 21, 1924, the ship left dock to sail back to New York from Bermuda, arriving in New York March 24, 1924. The ship's passenger list verifies much of what I have shared, but Robert was not on board.

Robert was actually at a Veterans Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, on February 5, 1924. He was dismissed March 24, 1924. Robert had two very crippling ailments: tuberculosis and meningitis.

Robert passed away July 30, 1927. The coroner's report states that those illnesses were the cause of death. Robert was buried in Live Oak Cemetery in Block F, Lot 74, Grave 3.

Robert's grave is marked with just a small, simple stone. He needs his upright military-issued stone!

Oh, I think I just came up with another project!

... Until Next Time!

BIOLOGICALS BOOST PLANT NUTRITION

Dave Stark, molecular biologist and CEO with Holganix says microbes boost plant nutrition four ways by making plant available nitrogen (N), by unlocking soil fertility, helping plants create robust roots, and by breaking down nutrients in plant residue. Soil biology is a real asset to farmers which should be enhanced.

Microbes have many soil functions. A healthy diverse microbial system improves soil structure, improves water drainage, stores more soil water, and consumes parasites and pathogens; releasing soil nutrients. Generally, about 50% of applied fertilizer gets into the plant, as it is first recycled through soil microbes. Microbes process nutrients to make them plant available.

Nutrient efficiency on N is only 40-65%, on phosphorus (P) 15-25%, and on potassium (K) around 30-50%. Farmers operating cost for fertilizer is around 36% for growing corn and only about half or less of applied fertilizer is efficiently used. Soil biology and soil microbes improve nutrient efficiency so nutrients are absorbed and used better by the plant.

Rhizobium bacteria are a type microbe that create plant useable N from the atmosphere. Legumes, clovers, and soybeans use Rhizobium bacteria to grow N to make soybean seed. Atmospheric N gas has two N atoms attached together by three strong bonds and is converted to ammonia which is one N atom bonded to 3 hydrogen (H)

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bonds. That takes a lot of energy. Lighting is a natural process to break the triple N bond. Lighting contributes about 9# of N/acre/year.

Commercial fertilizer creates synthetic N by heating up natural gas N to 700-900F under intense pressure of 150-250 atmospheres. This requires a lot of energy. Microbes do it for free but require food from plant roots to have energy to break the triple N bond down to ammonia.

Biologically active soils have protozoa and nematodes that eat the N rich bacteria and actinomycetes, making N available to crops. Some free-living bacteria release 20-100# N to grain crops. These free-living bacteria are not associated directly with legumes or clovers but live within .5 inch of roots. They tie up a lot of N, but in biologically active soils the N is more efficiently recycled. As much as 40%-60% of all plant available N comes directly from pseudomonas bacteria that live inside the plant in a process called rhizophagy. Nitrogen fertilizer makes up only a small part of the plants available N, and most of that N has to go through a microbe first.

Plants also use microbes to make all three major nutrients: N-P-K plant available. Microbes mine the soil, taking locked up N-P-K in soil minerals. This requires energy and the plant roots supply this in the form of sugars that are secreted into the soil by the root. If the plant get too much nutrients short-term from fertilizer, the plant root gets lazy and stops secreting sugars. This may become a problem if the fertilizer runs out. The plant suffers until it can grow more microbes.

Microbes also secrete hormones that increase plant root mass. Since a root can explore only 1% of the soil volume, the more roots; the more nutrients those root hairs can extract. Associating with mycorrhizae fungi (MF), the MF can explore 50X-700X more root volume than the root hairs. The MF bring back P, water, and micro-nutrients in the soil to the plant.

In addition, biologically active soils break down crop residues efficiently. Every 40 (200) bushel of corn produces 1 (5) ton of crop residue that contains 17# (85#) of N, 4# (20#) of P, and 34# (170#) of K. Crop residue has to have soil microbes and soil biology to break down and recycle those nutrients. If the ground

is frozen or too dry, the soil biology does not work. If using biologicals, its best to apply them after harvest ASAP. If it is too dry or the ground is frozen, save your money. Residue breakdown biologicals should contain more than just bacteria. They need MF who are good at breaking down lignin, beneficial protozoa, and other beneficial microbes to work properly.

Dave Stark is often asked if biologicals need to be applied every year. The answer is probably. Too often flooding, freezing, and drought reduce microbial populations; especially in conventional tilled fields. Soil microbes that need oxygen like protozoa, amoeba, fungi, and nematodes which consume the bacteria often decline, so the farmer loses microbial balance. About 6-10% of all microbes are associated with either one type of plant or even one crop (e.g. corn) variety. Right now, scientist do not know which microbes associate with each crop variety, so wide biological diversity is the best.

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services



Matthew A Miller, acting Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney.

(Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Burkard's last official day in office was February 28, 2026. The Paulding County Commissioners have appointed Assistant Prosecutor Matthew A. Miller to serve as acting Prosecuting Attorney.

The Paulding County Prosecutor's Office prosecutes adults accused of felony and misdemeanor crimes, and juveniles accused of delinquent acts, as well as advocates for victims of crime, and their families. The Office also serves as legal counsel for county and township officials—it is a privilege to work alongside them, and our County's law enforcement officers.

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FINDING JESUS

**Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender**

You know you're loved when you wake up in the morning to find your house has been decorated. Sometimes it's the landscape of the yard where friends have placed a pink flamingo or two. Or the decoration of tree branches with toilet paper. I wonder who came up with the idea of throwing toilet paper rolls in the air with the goal of making them drape from high branches to the grass below.

Most of us have stories to tell from our teenage years when we took part in decorating our friends' yards. It was a way of letting them know how much they were loved. How worthy they were of our time and effort.

It was also a way of letting them know their guard dog lost all sense of security duties when their friends showed up at midnight to play in the yard.

The goal was to get the trees decorated and not get caught. I remember coming up with an alibi that all members of the group were to know and stick with.

I'll have to look for the edition of The Edgerton Earth newspaper in which my friend's home made the news. The article included a photo of the front yard along with a short paragraph letting readers know what happened: A house had been toilet papered. Thankfully it was a lighthearted news story, and everyone knew it was friends who

had decorated the yard despite a trained dog that was supposed to have stood guard.

When my grandchildren were home for a weekend in November, they took the opportunity to decorate the interior of our home with tiny glass ducks. They stayed up late on a Friday night and placed little ducks everywhere. In the morning, it took a while before my husband and I noticed a duck. Then another. Then we found ducks everywhere: on shelves, in cupboards, on frames, and on trim molding. Open a drawer - find a duck.

I'm sure my grandchildren will always remember the evening they'd spent together hiding colorful little ducks in plain sight. In the morning they told me they thought they'd been caught when I'd gotten out of bed for a drink of water. I told them I had noticed every light in the house was on, and they were up and about in three different rooms. But I hadn't suspected a thing, gotten some water, and gone back to bed.

At the end of the weekend when they left to go home, they knew we'd not yet found a little Jesus figurine they'd hidden in plain sight. It took a week for me to notice Jesus standing on a model ship on a shelf in our living room. There He was on the stern of the ship - looking back at me. I took a picture and forwarded it to my grandson Toby, letting him know I'd found Jesus.

My father-in-law Leo had put the model ship together many years ago, and it has always been displayed on a wooden shelf he and his father Alva had made.

Leo had spent his military days working on a hospital ship, having crossed the Pacific 17 times during his five years of service. I remember Leo telling me that seasickness was an issue, and many men put in a request for an assignment on land. But Leo had de-

cidated a hospital ship was a safe place to stay until the war was over, so he remained in his role as a cook on the USS Acadia.

When Leo put the model ship together, it was a conversation piece that helped him tell his story. And now his family has more questions: How old was Grandpa when he joined the military and what year did he get to come home? Why did the Army give him the duties of a cook upon a hospital ship? If he'd written his story, what would we read?

The USS Acadia was originally launched in 1932 as a civilian passenger ship. It was converted to a hospital ship in 1943 and served mainly in the Pacific Theater functioning as a floating hospital. It also anchored in key bases and served as a stable medical center for ongoing operations. Although Leo was assigned to the USS Arcadia, the model ship he'd put together was the USS Haven.

When my grandchildren returned to our home over the Christmas holidays, they asked how many ducks we'd found. Since we'd been enjoying them right where they were, we hadn't collected them. We were then given the assignment of gathering the ducks so they would know how many are left to be found. The count now stands at 36. They're telling me there are 64 yet to find.



As for the little Jesus figurine, He'll remain in his spot on the shelf that Great-Grandpa Leo and Great-Grandpa Alva had put together. He'll forever be a reminder of the love passed down from those who came before us, and the love we'll continue to share with generations to come.

Marlene Oxender is a writer, speaker, and author. She writes about growing up in the small town of Edgerton, her ten siblings, the memorabilia in her parents' estate,

and her late younger brother, Stevie Kimpel, who was born with Down syndrome. Her three published books, Picket Fences, Stevie and Grandma, You Already Am Old, are available on Amazon. Marlene can be reached at mpoxender@gmail.com

BABY SHOWER FOR A BABY'S CLOSET COLLECTS ITEMS FOR MOTHERS IN NEED

A Baby's Closet has been helping local families for 35 amazing years and is hosting a community Baby Shower to help support these needs during March. During this time, the need has continued to grow, with 2025 showing a 36% increase in new families.

Thank you for helping families through your past giving to A Baby's Closet. Not only do families receive essential baby supplies, but they also receive education and preventative/wellness services to keep their families healthy and safe.

Parents earn coupons from our provider partners for prenatal, well-baby, responsible parenting, and educational opportunities. Then they exchange the coupons for essential baby items at A Baby's Closet. When you provide the essentials, parents can put their limited resources toward rent, food, and keeping their families safe.

We are asking that you please host a Baby Shower to help gather needed supplies by challenging your church members, co-workers, and families. Most needed items:

- Cash donations to buy large items (car seats, strollers, highchairs, bouncers, baby carriers)
- Diapers - sizes 1, 4, 5 & 6 (no pull-ups or 360 waist-band please)
- Bathtubs, Hooded Towels, Washcloth sets
- Girls & Boys clothing - sizes Newborn-3T
- Baby Gates
- Potty seats

You can buy these essential items at the Dollar Tree Store!

- Baby shampoo and baby wash
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- Infant/Toddler spoons
- Diaper cream
- Electrical outlet plugs
- Toothbrushes
- Nail Clippers

A Baby's Closet is located at 602 E. Wayne St, Ft. Wayne, IN.

DROP OFF INFORMATION

Drop off location: 602 E Wayne St. Fort Wayne, IN
Drop off times: March 16th - 27th (Mon - Thurs 8am - 3pm | Friday 8am - noon)
ABC open house: On Tuesday March 24th (10AM - 2PM) stop by with a donation and take a tour of A Baby's Closet. Come see what your generosity is doing in our community.

AT OHIO STATE, THE RACE TO RESHAPE EMERGENCY RESCUE TECH IS ON

Future engineers are soaring to new heights as they design the next generation of autonomous emergency rescue vehicles.

A group at The Ohio State University has created "STUART" a Small Transportable Uncrewed Aerial Rescue Technology flight vehicle. The team - called The

THE FORGOTTEN GENIUS

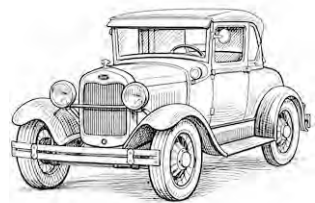
I write about things that interest me, and I ran across a story I never heard before. Henry Ford's only child Edsel was president of the Ford motor Company, from 1919 until his death in 1943, but Henry made his life miserable. Henry was involved in the operations and when his son did something he didn't approve of he let it be known.

The model T was built from 1908 to 1927, and sales were being overtaken by other car manufacturers. People were desiring more stylish cars, faster cars, roads were getting better. The automobile was no longer a luxury. Henry Ford resisted this change. Edsel designed the model A which came out in December of 1927 and was an immediate success.

Henry resisted the change but Edsel insisted and closed the factories for several weeks to begin production of the model A. It was the first affordable V8. 40 horsepower, twice the power of the model T, top speed of 65 mph, and came in five colors. No longer just black. The car was longer, lower, and more stylish.

The operation was completely different than a model T. It had a clutch and brake and accelerator that we still use today and a four on the floor shifter. Rear view mirror, and a safety glass windshield. It had mechanical brakes, but Ford introduced hydraulic brakes in 1939.

Despite all of Edsel's successes, he got no praise from his father. All the accolades went to his father. The stress was so great that Edsel died at the age of 49, while he was still the president of a very prosperous company. Edsel was truly a visionary unsung hero. He introduced the Mercury, the Lincoln, hy-



draulic brakes, rear view mirrors and many things we enjoy today.

The first car I remember my dad driving was a 1939 Ford. It was probably 10 years or more old. I remember riding in the front center, and shifting gears when my dad drove. One of my most vivid memories is coming home from church one night and it was so foggy you could not see the road.

In this car the windshield opened up, so I remember the windshield open and straining to see where the road was. Another vivid memory was on a butchering day we jacked up a rear tire, and with a flat belt ran a sausage grinder. I remember The '39 Ford being quite a reliable car. We went to Fort Wayne often and also took some trips.

I've always wished to have some type of antique car or pickup truck. Some years ago I stumbled upon the model A museum in the Kruse Complex, west of 69 in Auburn. It is quite a nice museum, and they always kept a couple of reconditioned model A's for sale. That day I could have walked out with a model A for \$5,000.

Reading today's West Bend, Someone get Miss Penny a mess of dandelions. They are the first things to come up in the spring and you need to watch closely because they flower very soon then you will need to make wine. A hot bacon dressing, with hard boiled eggs and you're in business.

—James Neuhouser

Sloopy Works - designed STUART as an entry for the GoAERO Prize, a three-year international competition aimed at helping first responders save lives by designing new medical aircraft. In the process, they set a new Ohio State record.

Weighing 120 pounds and spanning nearly 8 feet across, it is the heaviest drone ever built in the university's history to successfully take off vertically and fly on its own. As a prototype, the drone is only about one-third the footprint it would be if it were full-scale, yet its total lifted weight is 70% greater

than the world-speed-record holding autonomous drone flown by Ohio State that took to the skies in 2017.

"What normally takes an aerospace company five plus years to develop a new vehicle from scratch, we did within one year," said Kevin Disotell, a research scientist in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Ohio State and the director of the team. "This shows that our team was really resilient to be able to deliver an actual flying machine so quickly."

The GoAERO Prize competition comprises three stages, for which the total

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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.

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DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE DONATES \$1,000 TO SUPPORT AUGLAIZE VILLAGE EVENTS



Pictured with the grant check are (l-r) Tim Frederick - Village Treasurer and Roberta Phlipot - Moose Lodge Treasurer.

Congratulations to the Defiance County Historical Society Auglaize Village for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094.

The Moose holds a Donor Advised Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella and this grant will be used for 2026 events taking place at Auglaize Village.

prize purse is \$2 million. Stage 1 teams submitted an aircraft design and Stage 2 teams had to validate that concept by having their drone complete a 100-foot flight while carrying a small payload. Stage 3, which won't begin until 2027, will involve a final fly-off at NASA's Ames Research Center that will make the vehicles carry a 125-pound manikin in an obstacle-style course meant to test specific skills and capabilities relevant to future drone missions.

While the drone with the best performance will earn a \$1 million top prize, Ohio State was one of 14 university entries to GoAERO from the United States to have been

awarded concept-building funds from NASA's University Innovation project, which promotes university-led research into transformative technologies.

Self-flying vehicles, for instance, can be extremely useful for overcoming obstacles, assessing situations or reaching remote areas that would be impossible for humans to reach alone.

In the United States, more than 4.5 million people currently live in "ambulance deserts," areas where it could take emergency services 25 minutes or longer to reach them. High-tech drones can be used to quickly render aid and deliver life-saving supplies, such as bandages,

medicines and blood bags, to these vulnerable communities.

Still, because autonomous technologies can struggle to complete certain tasks in their entirety, such as the rescue portion of a search-and-rescue mission, scientists hope to create aircraft that are more versatile than the small surveillance drones and large rescue helicopters typically used in emergency response situations, as well as help curb the shortage of pilots in rural areas.

"This project is so important, not just here in Ohio, but around the world, because we're tackling technical challenges that can have a real-world impact on families," said Disotell. "Few things are worse than an emergency victim that needs air evacuation, and you can't get a helicopter."

With this goal in mind, STUART, named in honor of Stuart Roberts, an Ohio State College of Medicine professor in the 1960s who developed the world's first hospital-based medical helicopter rescue program, was designed to be a smaller, portable vehicle that could both take off and land vertically. Guided by Matthew McCrink, co-adviser for The Sloopy Works group and an assistant professor in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Ohio State who has built and flown more than 50 complex aircraft, STUART is unlike a traditional helicopter.

Instead, its powerful propellers are enclosed inside ducts to protect their components and people from damage, and onboard computers control the drone's movements in real time without the need for a human pilot.

During its flight attempt on a particularly cloudy day at The Ohio State University Airport last year, STUART reached the 100-foot marker while flying at 23 feet above ground at an average speed of about 3.4 feet per second. The successful flight demonstration yielded valuable engineering data, said Disotell.

"There were so many real-world lessons along the way in building and flying this prototype," he said. "It was a signature experience that I hope all our students on the team carry with them into their careers."

To document their achievement, the team will present their flight test results at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Aviation

Forum in June, during which teams can showcase their prototypes to the larger scientific community.

Despite the hurdles the team faced in bringing such a new design to life, many members found the challenges behind the experience inspiring, said Aditya Chitarti, president of The Sloopy Works and a graduate student in mechanical and aerospace engineering at Ohio State.

"Taking on the challenge of creating an aircraft for real people and patients is something that we took charge of and did really well," he said. "This experience really pushed me to understand how different aspects of the design can all come together."

While the team did not receive one of the eight prizes for Stage 2, entrants aren't required to win a previous stage prize to continue into the next round of the competition - so the Ohio State team, powered by its enthusiasm for helping bring a new class of technologies to market, is working to forge ahead.

"We're very passionate about where we want to end up in the future," said Chitarti. "We're going to keep pushing forward with ways to make an impact."

The project was supported by Farva Technology LLC.

FRIENDS OF SHERWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY TO HOST 'TRIVIA ON TAP'

The Friends of Sherwood Branch Library will host a 'Trivia on Tap' fundraiser on March 24 at Iron Horse Brews, 101 N. Harrison St., Sherwood.

Doors will open at 5 p.m., and trivia begins at 6 p.m. There will be six rounds of trivia, with a bonus round offered. A full food and drink menu will be available.

Proceeds from the event support programming and services at Sherwood Branch Library. The winning team will receive a cash prize.

To register a trivia team, or for more information, contact the library at 419-899-4343. Walk-ins are welcome to play too.

HOW OUTDATED BENEFICIARY CHOICES CAN DERAIL YOUR PLANS

When you open a retirement account or buy a life insurance policy, you're asked to name a beneficiary. It might seem like just another form to fill out, but this simple step can affect your family's future.

Many people don't give beneficiary designations much thought after signing the initial paperwork. It may have been years ago, and life has moved on. But this might surprise you: These designations can override what's in your will or living trust. That means your retirement accounts and insurance proceeds could end up going to someone you didn't intend, creating what professionals call an accidental inheritance.

Life changes quickly. You might get married, divorced or remarried. You might have children or stepchildren. A loved one might pass away. You may decide to give to your favorite charity. Any of these events could mean it's time to update your beneficiaries.

The rules can get complicated. For example, after a divorce, some (but not all) states have laws that automatically revoke your beneficiary designations for IRAs, bank accounts and insurance policies. But no matter where you live in the U.S., the designations for 401(k) plans and pensions stay in place until you change them. In community property states, couples must split 50-50 the assets they acquired during marriage, adding another layer of complexity.

There are other considerations, too. It's a good idea to name a primary and a contingent beneficiary. If your primary beneficiary dies before you do, the contingent beneficiary receives your assets. Without this backup plan, your carefully considered wishes could go awry.

Naming minor children as direct beneficiaries isn't usually a good idea. Children can't legally receive and control assets until they become adults, so a court would have to get involved and appoint a guardian for managing the money. Instead, you might set up a trust or name a custodian to oversee the funds until your children are mature enough to handle them responsibly.

For family members with

special needs, you'll want to be especially careful as about choosing your beneficiary. Some choices may jeopardize their eligibility to receive government benefits such as government disability payments or Medicaid. An estate attorney can help you make important beneficiary decisions.

One major benefit of proper beneficiary designations is that they can help your loved ones avoid probate, a time-consuming and potentially expensive legal process.

For these reasons and others, it's important to review your beneficiary designations regularly, especially after major life events. Contact your retirement account administrator or insurance company to update any outdated information.

A financial advisor can help you understand how your beneficiary choices fit into your financial strategy and ensure your assets go where you want them to go. It may also make sense to work with a legal professional who can help you ensure your beneficiary designations align with your plans for transferring your estate assets.

Don't leave these important decisions to chance. Taking time now to review and update your beneficiaries can help give you a sense of security and protect the people you love.

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

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- 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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Paulding's Thor Etter claims Sectional Title at 157lb punching his ticket to Districts! Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Antwerp's District Qualifiers: Zac Salas and Gage Clevinger.

(Continued from Page 1)

byes, Hire defeated Crestview's Dylan Cress 17-1 before falling to Allen East's Colt Larrison by the same score in the finals, finishing as

runner-up.

• 120 pounds - Colton Kimmel (Wayne Trace): Kimmel pinned Delphos Jefferson's Brentley Lindeman in 1:21 and then defeated Paulding's Landon Shartzter in just

15 seconds. He dropped a 7-3 decision to Allen East's Langston McClain in the championship match.

150 pounds - Landon Dasher (Paulding) celebrated his 100th career win during the tournament. He pinned Lima Perry's Alex Robertson in 3:28 and earned a 19-1 victory over Spencerville's Austin McMichael before falling 19-4 to Delphos St. John's Edward Kesson in the finals.

Three county wrestlers battled back to secure third place and automatic District qualification:

132 pounds - Ben Gurney (Wayne Trace)

150 pounds - Landon Shartzter (Paulding)

165 pounds - Michael Clifford (Paulding)

Fourth-place finishers also punched their tickets to Districts:

Gage Clevinger (Antwerp)

150 pounds - Zac Salas (Antwerp)

190 pounds - Avery Cooper (Paulding)

Two wrestlers finished fifth to earn alternate status:

126 pounds - Hunter Webb (Paulding)

138 pounds - Seth Ross-wurm (Wayne Trace)

Rounding out the county's placements:

138 pounds - Leonel Reyes (Paulding)

285 pounds - Josh Perez (Paulding)

Congratulations to all wrestlers who competed at Sectionals, and best of luck to those advancing to Districts. The District tournament was held March 6-7 at Hobart Arena in Troy, Ohio, where athletes will battle for their chance to qualify for the State Championships. See the summary next week!

ANTWERP WRESTLING CLUB HAS GREAT DAY AT PAULDING

The Antwerp Wrestling Club recently competed in the jungle at Paulding High School on Sunday, February 22, 2026. All 21 young archers were able to place in the top 4 of their respective weight classes. Placing 4th on the day were Malachi Forbes and Sebastian Yanez. Finishing 3rd were Riley Slattman, Bennett Graham, Oliver McCague, Carl Kosch, and Blade Ruffing. Earning runner-up finishes for the tournament were Phelix Slattman, Bryson Perry, Ulrik Zijlstra, Adeline Slattman, Benson Slattman, Kaydence Woolace, and Wayne Zielke. The archers also crowned 6 undefeated champions for the tournament with Waylon Parisot, Aubree Frost, Jameson Graham, Inigo Diaz, Starlette Ruffing, and Olivia Kosch. Congratulations to all the archer wrestlers for their accomplishments and hard work this past weekend.

BRIDGE DECK OVERLAY TO BEGIN ON I-469

The Indiana Department of Transportation announces a bridge deck overlay on eastbound I-469 over Maplecrest Road.

Starting on or after March 2, crews will be working on the eastbound I-469 bridge between mile markers 28 and 29. Work on the project is expected to be complete by the end of September. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

During construction, two lanes in each direction of I-469 will remain open. Westbound traffic will shift and eastbound traffic will utilize a median crossover to use the westbound side of I-469 in the construction area. Drivers should also watch for crews working on Maplecrest Road underneath the I-469 bridge.

The on-ramp from northbound Maplecrest Road to westbound I-469 will close at a date yet to be announced to allow for the traffic shifts on I-469. Once closed, traffic will be able to access I-469 by using the on-ramp from southbound Maplecrest Road to westbound I-469 that is directed by a temporary traffic signal, or drivers may seek an alternate route.

INDOT encourages drivers to slow down, use extra caution and drive distraction free when traveling in and around all work zones.

COUNTY WRESTLERS DELIVER STRONG PERFORMANCES AT DEFIANCE SECTIONAL



Paulding's Civil Pumphrey battled and took the runner-up spot in the 125lb division. She will compete at Districts next week! Photo by Rustic Comfort Photography



Antwerp's McAlexander notches 2 wins to take her spot at the Districts competition. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Girls wrestling programs from across the county made their presence known at the sectional tournament hosted February 27 at Defiance High School. With the top four finishers in each weight class earning automatic advancement to the District Tournament, several local athletes secured their postseason spots.

Three county wrestlers claimed sectional titles: Karsyn Troth of Wayne Trace, and Cami McAlexander and Maddilan Doster, both representing Antwerp.

Troth powered through the 130-pound bracket with three pins on her way to the finals. She opened with a 55-second fall over Teriyah Mays (Whitmer), followed by a 1:22 pin of Bella Legere (Elida) in the quarterfinals. Troth continued her momentum with a 1:05 semifinal pin against Jayde Westemeyer (Delta) before closing out the championship with a dominant 17-1 technical fall over Savannah Mulkey.

McAlexander earned her championship after a first-round bye, needing only 19 seconds to pin Alyska Brown (Montpelier) in her first match. She then secured a 3-0 decision over Taeya Moyer (Archbold) and finished the

day with an 18-2 technical fall against Hope Scherger (Woodmore) in the title bout.

Doster also brought home gold for Antwerp. After a bye, she rolled to a 16-0 technical fall over Ki'Niah Ransom (Woodmore) and then defeated Madyson Smith (Montpelier) 14-5 in the championship match.

Paulding's Civil Pumphrey reached the finals at 125 pounds and finished as runner-up. Pumphrey pinned Lily Hunt (Delta) in 1:01 and shut out Payton Geiner (Bryan) 12-0 in the semifinals before falling to Isabela Jordan (Defiance) by pin in the championship.

Additional district qualifiers included Katelynn Bauer of Wayne Trace, who placed fourth at 135 pounds, and Teagen Eaton of Antwerp, who finished fourth at 235 pounds. Fifth-place alternates were Miracle Omonayin of Paulding (135 pounds) and Aries Ricker of Wayne Trace (155 pounds). Harley Troyer of Paulding earned sixth place at 145 pounds.

District competition is set for March 8th at Findlay High School. Best wishes to all athletes continuing their postseason journey.

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PANTHERS POUNCE ON BULLDOGS, PAULDING ROLLS TO SECTIONAL WIN



Senior Grady Barton's experience on the floor allows him under the basket and shoots for 2 points! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING - The Paulding Panthers delivered a dominant performance on both sides of the floor Friday night, defeating the Swanton Bulldogs 65-26 in the OHSAA Division V Sectional Final on February 27.

Paulding entered the tournament matchup with an 18-4 record and wasted little time asserting control, using efficient shooting and strong defensive pressure to pull away early. The Panthers shot an impressive 52.8 percent from the field and held Swanton to just 18.2 percent shooting for the game.

Jordan Manz led the Panthers with 18 points on an outstanding 9-of-12 shooting performance. Tyson Manz followed with 13 points, while Xander Kuckuck added 10 points to give Paulding three

players in double figures.

Jalen Manz contributed six points in the win, while Gannon Parrett and Grady Barton each finished with five points. Blake Rhonehouse added five points as the Panthers spread the scoring across the lineup.

Paulding controlled the glass with a 33-23 rebounding advantage and created numerous opportunities with active defense, recording 12 steals while forcing 17 Swanton turnovers. The Panthers also moved the ball effectively, finishing with 17 assists in the victory.

Swanton (8-15) struggled to find consistent offense against the Panthers' defense, making just six field goals on the night. Despite the loss, the Bulldogs converted 10-of-12 free throws.

PANTHERS SLIP PAST TIGERS IN THRILLER, ADVANCE WITH DISTRICT SEMIFINAL WIN

DEFIANCE - In a tightly contested postseason battle, the Paulding Panthers edged the Liberty Center Tigers 46-45 in the OHSAA Division V District Semifinal on March 3, surviving a back-and-forth contest to advance in tournament play.

Paulding entered the matchup with a 19-4 record and relied on balanced scoring and strong rebounding to hold off Liberty Center in the one-point victory. The Panthers finished the night shooting 34 percent from the field while converting 11 of 16 free throws to help secure the win.

Paulding with a game-high 16 points, hitting five field goals and going 5-of-6 from the free throw line. Jordan Manz followed with 10 points, while Xander Kuckuck added eight points. Tyson Manz contributed seven points and Jalen Manz finished with five points to round out the Panther scoring.

On the boards, Paulding controlled the rebounding battle with a 40-25 advantage, including 14 offensive rebounds that helped create additional scoring opportunities. Jalen Manz recorded a strong all-around performance with eight rebounds and five steals, while Jordan Manz added eight rebounds and two assists. Rhonehouse chipped in seven rebounds as the Panthers worked to



The Paulding fought hard and won! Shown here is Sophomore Tyson Manz has his 3-point contribution helped make the Panther win a success! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

maintain possession throughout the game.

Liberty Center (16-7) kept the pressure on throughout the contest, finishing the game shooting nearly 30 percent from the field and connecting on five three-point baskets. The Tigers also converted 12 of 16 free throws and forced 11 turnovers in the effort.

Despite the Tigers' late push, Paulding held on in the closing moments to secure the one-point victory and move on in the Division V district tournament.

RAIDERS' TOURNAMENT RUN ENDS WITH LOSS TO RAMS

HAVILAND - The Wayne Trace Raiders saw their postseason run come to an end Saturday night, February 28th as the Tinora Rams secured a 55-49 victory in the Division VI Boys Basketball Sectional at Wayne Trace.

Tinora built an early lead in the opening half, taking a 12-10 advantage after the first quarter and extending the margin with another strong defensive effort in the second period. The Rams outscored the Raiders 12-2 in the quarter to carry a 24-12 lead into halftime.

Wayne Trace responded after the break with its strongest stretch of the night. The Raiders scored 16 points in the third quarter to cut into the Tinora lead, but the Rams maintained control with 14 points of their own, holding a 38-28 advantage heading into the final quarter.

The Raiders continued to battle in the fourth period, putting together a 21-point quarter to make things interesting down the stretch. Tinora answered with 17 points in the final frame to



Wayne Trace was sent to the line many times on this game. Shown here is senior Lance Maenle adding points through free throws! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

hold off the rally and secure the six-point victory.

Lance Maenle led Wayne Trace (14-9) with a game-high 20 points, including 12 made free throws. Carter Clemens added 15 points, while Tanner Laukhuf finished with eight. Zach Stoller chipped in six points for the Raiders.

Tinora (11-12) was led by Jared Neff and Josh Lieb with 14 points each. Owen Ferrell followed with 13 points, and Parker Hancock added 11 points for the Rams.

Tinora finished the game with balanced scoring and converted 17-of-25 free throws to help seal the win. With the victory, the Rams advance to face Lincolnview in Division VI district play at Defiance.

FRIENDS OF DPL TAKING VENDOR APPLICATIONS FOR ART IN THE PARK 2026

The Friends of Defiance Public Library will host the 44th annual Art in the Park event on June 28, and artists and crafters have until June 13 to apply for a vendor spot.

Art in the Park will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Fort Street/at the Fort Grounds outside Defiance Public Library. In addition to a wide assortment of artists and crafters, the fundraising event also features children's activities, a used book sale with proceeds benefiting Defiance Public Library, food, and live entertainment

LADY RAIDERS' DISTRICT TITLE BID ENDS WITH LOSS TO LADY PATRIOTS



It wasn't for lack of trying in second half of the game for the Raiders. The ball and basket just wouldn't cooperate, including senior Caren Winans' attempts to score here. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

VAN WERT - A strong defensive effort and balanced scoring helped Patrick Henry pull away from Wayne Trace in the OHSAA Division VI District Final on February 28 at Van Wert, as the Patriots defeated the Raiders 36-23.

Wayne Trace came out strong in the opening quarter, building a 14-7 advantage behind early offensive production. However, Patrick Henry responded in the second period, outscoring the Raiders 13-5 to take a narrow 20-19 lead into halftime.

Defense dominated the third quarter as both teams struggled to find the basket. Patrick Henry managed five points in the period while holding Wayne Trace scoreless, extending the lead to 25-19 heading into the final quarter.

The Patriots then sealed the win in the fourth quarter,

adding 11 points while limiting the Raiders to four to secure the district championship.

Carys Crossland led Patrick Henry (21-3) with a game-high 19 points, including multiple three-point baskets. Meyla Hieber added eight points, while Ada Christman contributed five. Kynli Crossland and Ella Christman each finished with two points in the victory.

Wayne Trace (18-6) was led by Lexi Moore with nine points. Amber Stoller added seven points, while Caroline Winans scored four and Caren Winans chipped in three.

Patrick Henry finished the game with seven three-point field goals and strong defensive play, holding the Raiders to just nine points in the second half to secure the district title.

throughout the day.

Instructions will be emailed to approved vendors during the week of June 22.

Complete information and a vendor application can be found online at defiancelibrary.org. For more information, contact Laura

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THE LEFT TURN



Outlaw Super Late Model Driver Stan Yee Jr. at Flat Rack Speedway. Charlie Orns photo.

By: Ron Burt

This is part 1 of a guide to racetracks that run weekly shows in our area. Just about all the dirt and pavement tracks have released their 2026 race/event schedules on their Facebook and web pages. Always check those for updates.

Spring ahead with daylight saving time means Attica Raceway Park opens this Friday, March 13th. Bring your jacket and blanket because it might get chilly. Attica Raceway Park will be the first weekly track to open in 2026. The regular weekly shows will feature Dirt UMP Late Models, 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints and 305 Winged Sprints. The World of Outlaws and the All-Star Circuit of Champions will appear on select nights in 2026.

Saturday, April 18th will be opening night at "The Track Action Built", Fremont Speedway. Weekly shows feature the Winged 410 Outlaw Sprints, 305 Winged Sprints and the 6 Cylinder Dirt Trucks. When the weekly 410 Sprints are off, the void will be filled with several other headliners this summer The Ohio Valley Sprint Car Association, High Limit Sprint Series, The All-Star Circuit of Champions, and the Ohio Valley Late Models all scheduled in 2026.

Flat Rack Speedway will swing open the gates to racing Saturday, May 2nd. It's just north of Toledo off I-75 and over the years many Midwest and National stars have run

this fast Michigan speedway. Recently when Team USA Hockey won the Olympics Gold Medal, the speedway received national attention because winning goalie Connor Hellebuyck's father raced at Flat Rock Speedway in the 1980's and 1990's. This paved track features the Outlaw Super Late Models, with Street Stocks, and the thrilling Figure 8 cars. They also bring in Dwarf Cars, Late Model Sportsmen, CRA with top national drivers, Outlaw 350 Supermodifieds and a few other classes.

Limaland Motorsports Park is another Friday night track that runs weekly from May 2nd until August 1st. They try to end their season before high school football starts. Each week they race UMP Modifieds and Thunderstocks. They bring in a different headline class every race night. The Great Lakes Super Sprint use a 360 motor and has a wing on top. The BOSS Sprints visit and they are non-wing 410 like USAC Sprints. The USAC D2 Thunder Midgets and the Dirt Track 4 cylinder Truck Series appear often at Limaland.

Angola Motorsports Park in Angola Indiana will open Saturday, May 23rd, Memorial Day Weekend. This historic paved quarter mile, high banked oval attracts drivers and fans from Indiana, Ohio and Michigan. The weekly Saturday shows normally run five car classes Late Models,

Modifieds, Street Stocks, Front Wheel Drives and Hornets. Other series visit the track.

Next week, look for Part 2, of local racetracks that run weekly shows. Our area does have a few tracks with limited schedules that don't open for weekly racing. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! (www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/)

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Jared J. Sherry of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of assault. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$380 in court costs. Sherry was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 173 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement on standard probation, an evaluation at Westwood with completion of any recommended treatment, 20 hours of community service, completion of the Keeping It in Check class, a risk assessment, no contact with the victims, and no alcohol, drugs, or bars.

Brent A. Clementz of Cloverdale, Ohio, was convicted of falsification involving a game check. He was fined \$183 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs.

Austin K. Grogg of Van Wert, Ohio, had a charge of theft dismissed. In a related case, Grogg was convicted of criminal trespass. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$132 in court costs. Grogg was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include fines and costs to be taken from bond, no contact with the victim or the property involved, and maintaining general good behavior.

Aaron L. Frost of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of unauthorized use of property. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$236 in court costs. Frost was sentenced to 10 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of restitution in the amount of \$15.96, no contact with Antwerp Pop N Brew, and maintaining general good behavior. Related theft charges in the case were dismissed.

Tyler R. Bauer of Columbus Grove, Ohio, was convicted of hunting without a deer permit. He was fined \$183 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs.

Tiago Rocha Cardoso of Lowell, Massachusetts, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a commercial motor vehicle without possessing a CDL. He was fined \$500 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. A related seat belt charge was dismissed.

Sheena S. Tracy of Latty, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Emily D. Callaway of Fayette, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Cecaily E. Hettinger of Scott, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Nicole M. Fisher of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of criminal mischief. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay

PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS PROMOTE 'WE ARE CONNECTED' MINDSET



Paulding Junior High School is utilizing the 7-Mindsets curriculum to address the social and emotional needs of students. Each unit revolves around a specific theme students can apply to their lives. This unit's theme was We Are Connected. Shown in the picture are Paulding Junior High School's We Are Connected Mindset Motivators.

PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH STUDENTS VOLUNTEER AT CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY



On Saturday, February 28th students and staff from Paulding Junior High School volunteered at the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in

Paulding, Ohio.

Shown in the picture from left are: Mr. Phil Romero (6th grade intervention specialist), Mrs.

Amanda Tice (6th grade science / social studies teacher), Rya Wirts, Beka Mericle, Wyatt Wilhelm, and Jeremiah Sajuan.

\$280 in court costs. Fisher was sentenced to 60 days in jail, with 59 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, and having no unlawful contact with the victim.

Brandon Vanness of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of menacing. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Vanness was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, having no contact with the victim, and forfeiture of a weapon to the arresting agency to be destroyed or put to lawful use.

John C. Lewis of Ellenwood, Georgia, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Ella S. Vorst of Perrysburg, Ohio, had a charge of driving under suspension dismissed. In a related case, Vorst was convicted of failure to yield to an emergency vehicle. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Carmelita L. Moore of St. Louis, Missouri, was convicted of a child restraint violation. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Raleighn G. Smallwood of Cecil, Ohio, was convicted of domestic violence. She was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$317 in court costs. Smallwood was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 176 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement on standard probation, completion of an evaluation and any recommended treatment, 20 hours

of community service, completion of the Keeping It in Check class, a risk assessment, anger management, and no contact with the victim.

Daniel W. Frye Jr. of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle with an unsecured load. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Laurentius A. Vanroessel of Hamilton, Indiana, was convicted of a traffic control device violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Kayla N. Gladieux of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Hunter D. Coutts of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court

costs. **Thomas L. Roth** of Grover Hill, Ohio, was convicted of a railroad crossing violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

HIGH SCHOOL Men & Women's Basketball SCORES & MORE
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 Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt
www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

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VANTAGE CAREER CENTER STUDENTS EARN NATIONAL SPOTS AT BPA STATE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Pictured above (l-r) are Xander Bartley, Gavin Westgerdes, Silas Foltz, Henry Walpole, Riley Wenzlick, and Spencer Stabler.

Students from Vantage Career Center earned top honors at the recent Business Professionals of America (BPA) State Leadership Conference, with four students officially qualifying to advance to the national competition and several others earning State Finalist recognition.

Business Professionals of America (BPA) is a national career and technical student organization that prepares students for leadership and careers in business and information technology. The State Leadership Conference brings together top students from across Ohio to compete in rigorous, industry-based events. Advancing to the BPA Na-

tional Leadership Conference, held May 6-10, 2026, in Nashville, Tennessee, are:

- Henry Walpole - 3rd Place, Computer Security
- Spencer Stabler - 6th Place, Server Administration Using Microsoft
- Xander Bartley - 7th Place, Computer Security
- Silas Foltz - 7th Place, Server Administration Using Microsoft

These four students have secured guaranteed spots at the national level based on their state performance.

Additional students earning State Finalist honors include:

- Riley Wenzlick - 10th Place, Computer Network

Technology

- Gavin Westgerdes - 10th Place, C# Programming
- Xander Bartley - 9th Place, Digital Communications & Design Concepts and 10th Place, Information Technology Concepts

Pending additional qualifying results, Riley Wenzlick and Gavin Westgerdes may also have an opportunity to advance to the national competition.

"These students have dedicated countless hours sharpening their technical skills and preparing for competition," said Austin Meyer, Network Systems Instructor at Vantage Career Center. "Having four students advance to nationals is an incredible accomplishment, and we are proud of how they represented Vantage."

Vantage students will now prepare for the national stage in Nashville, carrying with them the support of their instructors, classmates, and community.

COMING THIS YEAR: MAJOR EXPANSION OF FAMILY BIRTHING CENTER & NEW LEVEL II SPECIAL CARE NURSERY AT PARKVIEW HOSPITAL RANDALLIA

FORT WAYNE, IN - Parkview Health today announced substantial investments in women's and children's services at Parkview Hospital Randallia, including the construction of a Level II Special Care Nursery (SCN) and an expansion of the Family Birthing Center (FBC) to support growing maternity volumes. The multimillion-dollar project will enhance access to high-quality maternity and newborn care for families across the region.

With construction set to begin in May 2026, the estimated \$10.8 million project includes a Level II Special Care Nursery spanning approximately 6,300 square feet with 12 private rooms and 14 beds - two of which will be dedicated to twins. The FBC expansion will add six postpartum rooms across approximately 7,300 square feet, each expected to support up to 100 additional deliveries annually.

"Over the past several years, the Parkview Regional Medical Center NICU has undergone multiple expansions, yet the community's need for higher-level newborn care continues to grow," said Dr. Tony GiaQuinta, physician leader for children's services at Parkview Health. Following completion of the nursery, Parkview will request state

designation of the Randallia Family Birthing Center as a Level II Obstetrics Center, advancing from its current Level I designation. This upgrade will allow the facility to care for mothers as early as 32 weeks gestation who do not require intensive care.

Once achieved, the hospital will offer the first Level II Special Care Nursery within the Parkview Health system.

"Since the midwives moved to Randallia in 2023, we've seen remarkable momentum," said Dr. Thomas Miller, physician executive for women's services at Parkview Health. "To continue providing exceptional, patient-centered care, we must grow with the families we serve. This expansion gives us the space and resources needed today and positions us for the increased volume we anticipate as we advance to a Level II Birthing Center."

To support the expanded services, Parkview anticipates hiring approximately 60 new RN, patient care technician (PCT) and respiratory therapist full-time equivalents, equating to an estimated 75+ individuals. Additional recruitment is expected for roles including neonatal nurse practitioners, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists. Those interested in career opportunities can explore openings at parkview.com/careers.

"This investment strengthens our ability to care for families across northern Indiana and northwest Ohio," said Dr. Miller. "Expanding the Family Birthing Center and adding Level II newborn services ensures that more mothers and babies can receive the care they need."

Dr. GiaQuinta added, "Families should have access to specialized maternity or newborn care. By expanding these services at Randallia, we are building a stronger, more accessible system for the next generation."

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2026; Hagerman will serve as the contractor.

For more information about Parkview Health's women's and children's services, visit parkview.com.

ACPL RECOGNIZED FOR 33rd "EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING" HONOR AWARD

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Allen County Public Library for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) for the 2024 fiscal year. This marks the 33rd consecutive year that the library has achieved this prestigious recognition.

The report was reviewed by an impartial panel of judges. According to Michele Mark Levine, Director of the Government Finance Officers Association, award recipients have met the highest standards of the program, including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure," clearly communicating a financial story, and motivating potential users to read the report.

"Receiving the recognition for the 33rd consecutive year is a reflection

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

of the ACPL's deep and sustaining commitment to transparency," said ACPL Chief Finance Officer Jill Noll.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

According to Noll, this recognition is a reflection of the ACPL's culture of accountability to the taxpayers. "We take that responsibility very seriously. We want every taxpayer to feel confident that when they entrust their hard-earned money to the library, that we are managing it with care and integrity."

This dedication to fiscal

transparency can be found in the library's regular reports to city, county, and state institutions through budget presentations, strategic plan updates, community impact reports, and quarterly outreach to leaders. The ACFR and other financial or strategic planning information can be found at acpl.info.

PC SWCD PUBLIC NOTICE

Paulding Soil & Water Conservation's 2025 Cash Basis Report has been completed and is available for review at the office.

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

Revised Code, Section 5721.19.1

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

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

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

vs.

NANCY JEAN FENTER, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 092

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

State Route 66, Oakwood
Parcel Number: 08-34S-017-00

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

The opening bid is Four Thousand Four Hundred Thirteen and 53/100 (\$4,413.53) Dollars, sufficient to cover pro-rated taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges of this suit.

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

Now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Jason K. Landers, Sheriff, Paulding County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction to the highest bidder of an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment against each parcel on Thursday, March 19, 2026 by on-line bidding at:

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

If this parcel does not receive a sufficient bid, it shall be offered for sale on-line, under the same terms and conditions of the first sale on April 2, 2026 for the same minimum bid.

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

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

Purchaser(s) are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

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

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

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)

Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)

Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)

Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.paulingcountywmea.com

NOTICE FOR SEALED BIDS

Section 7.16 of Ohio Revised Code 3375.41

Sealed proposals will be received by the Paulding County Carnegie Library located at 205 South Main Street, Paulding, Ohio 45879, until Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. EST, at which time and place, the proposals will be opened publicly and read aloud. Proposals received after Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. EST will be returned unopened. Proposals shall be for the furnishing of materials and the performance of labor necessary for the:

PCCL Annex Project
119 South Main Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879

All in accordance with the Contract Documents prepared by: Beilharz Architects, Inc., 419 Fifth Street, Suite 2100, Defiance, Ohio 43512.

A Lump Sum bid for the project will be received.

Pre-Bid Meeting - None.

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

The Contract Documents, including Drawings and Specifications are on file for public inspection at the office of the Architect: Beilharz Architects, Inc. Phone: (419)782-6211.

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

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

This notice is posted on the Paulding County Carnegie Library web site.

Notice can be accessed at: www.paulingcountylibrary.com

The Date of this notice: March 5, 2026 and March 12, 2026

By: Paulding County Carnegie Library

Stacie L. Peters, Fiscal Officer

205 South Main Street

Paulding, Ohio 45879

PAULDING FFA CHAPTER CELEBRATES NATIONAL FFA WEEK



Pictured here are the Junior Class who were the winners of the Annual FFA Country Olympics during National FFA Week.

By: Vivienne Myers, Paulding FFA Reporter

February 23rd-27th, the Paulding FFA Chapter celebrated National FFA Week by having many events throughout the district. During this week, every day was a dress-up day for the elementary, middle, and high school.

When students entered the building on Monday there was an FFA emblem scavenger hunt in all the buildings and once a student found an emblem they turned it in for a candy prize! It was so fun to see the students in all grades finding hidden emblems all week.

Monday was sleepy farmer day, where students got to wear their pajamas with boots. The FFA officers also made a

quiz to educate the entire high school about agriculture in Paulding County. The students took the quiz and once they got 100% they were given a cookie donated by Ag Credit.

On Tuesday, we had Show Day, where students wore fair show clothing like boots and nice flannels. The Paulding FFA also held their 3rd annual Farmer Appreciation breakfast to give back to the community and all the farmers for all of their support.

On Wednesday, the dress-up day was redneck day.

Thursday was FFA shirt day where the chapter hosted our annual staff appreciation lunch.

Friday's dress-up day was patriotic cowboys day. The

Paulding FFA hosted its annual Country Olympics with the entire high school in attendance. The students competed in a wide variety of games and competitions with their teams. These games consisted of balloon stomp, pie eating contest, tug of war, seed spitting, cattle roping, musical chairs, a sack race, a wheelbarrow race, and a milking contest. Blayne Pease and Blake Rhonehouse were the cornhole champions for 2026 and claimed their prize of \$100 cash at the end of the games.

The students had an enjoyable day at the Country Olympics and are very excited for next year. We want to give a big thanks to everyone for their support and dedication to the Paulding FFA Chapter!

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), Sidney 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.

LEGACY LIVING SPONSORS BAR AT 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to announce that Legacy Living has committed a \$5,000 sponsorship as the Bar Sponsor for the Foundation's 2026 Gala, scheduled for October 3.

Pictured above are (l-r) Iyan Pelfree - Legacy Living Leasing Director, Laurie McCann - Gala Committee Member and Paige Green - Legacy Living Executive Director.

CORRECTION:

In last week's edition of West Bend News, an error occurred in the Northwest State Community College News Release announcing the incoming Board of Trustees for the college. The correct release, photo

and caption are below.

West Bend News endeavors each week to thoroughly proof-read and re-proofread all news articles that are submitted. It seems to be inevitable that a snafu slips through now and again. We thank our devoted

readers who help to point out mistakes that they see in the West Bend News.

Our apologies to Northwest State Community College and to the board of trustees for this oversight.

—WBN Editors

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES ELECTS NEW OFFICERS



The 2026-2027 Board of Trustees Chair, Vice-Chair and 2nd Vice-Chair are pictured with Dr. Todd Hernandez. (L-r) Joel Miller (Henry County), Mickey Schwarzbek (Defiance County), Dr. Todd Hernandez, and John Poulson (Henry County).

ARCHBOLD, OHIO - The Northwest State Community College Board of Trustees met in regular session on Friday, February 20th 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 Febru-

ary 2026 to February 2027. Mickey Schwarzbek (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

PAULDING COUNTY SENIOR CENTER MARCH ACTIVITY CALENDAR

3/9 - Coffee, Donuts & Trivia with Kari at 9:00 a.m.; Exercise at 10:00 a.m.; Steering Committee Meeting at 12:00 p.m.; Bridge Club at 12:30 p.m.

3/10 - Bus Leaves for Vantage Spa Day at 8:15 a.m.; Euchre at 9:45 a.m.; Musical Bingo with Grandview Agency 10:30 a.m.

3/11 - Rummy at 9:00 a.m.; Bingo sponsored by Vancrest of Payne at 10:30 a.m.; Diamond Art with Mike and Barbara; Grocery Shopping at 1:00 p.m.

3/12 - Toenail Clinic; Euchre at 9:45 a.m.; Exercise at 10:00 a.m.; Bingo with Kingsbury Place at 12:00 p.m.

3/13 - Euchre at 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study at 10:00 a.m.; Commodity Distribution, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

3/16 - Exercise at 10:00 a.m.; Cornhole at 10:30 a.m.; Steering Committee Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

3/17 - Alzheimer's Consult Walk-ins with Marybeth, 9:00-10:00 a.m.; Euchre at 9:45 a.m.; Healthy Brain Talk with Marybeth at 10:00 a.m.; Caregiver Support Group with Susan Paulus at 10:00 a.m.; Green Bingo at 12:00 p.m.

3/18 - Rummy at 9:00 a.m.;

PAULDING SENIOR CENTER MARCH DINING MENU

3/9 - Chicken Alfredo w/ Pasta, Broccoli, Fruit Compote, Tossed Salad, WW Bread

3/10 - Chili w/Crackers, Tossed Salad, Tropical Fruit, Gingerbread, Apple Juice

3/11 - Swiss Steak w/ Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts, Banana/Dinner Roll, Oatmeal Raisin Cookie

3/12 - Pork Chop, Hashbrown Bake, Beets, Mixed Fruit, Cookie, WW Bread

3/13 - Salmon Patty, Scalloped Potatoes, Pears, Candied Carrots, WW Bread,

Fruit Snacks

3/16 - Beef Stroganoff, Key West Blend Vegetables, Warm Apple Sauce, Cole Slaw, Dinner Roll

3/17 - Oven Fried Chicken, Red Potatoes, Scandinavian Vegetables, Grape Juice, Cookie, Biscuit

3/18 - Sausage-Egg-Cheese Biscuit, Stewed Tomatoes, Hashbrown Potatoes, Orange-Grape-Coconut Salad, Orange Juice

3/19 - BBQ Pork Sandwich, Warm Spiced Peaches, Broccoli, Carrot Raisin Salad, Goldfish Crackers

3/20 - Baked Fish, Mashed Potatoes, Succotash, Tropical Fruit, Sherbet, Roll

3/23 - Cabbage Roll, Casserole over White Rice, Blushing Pineapple, Dinner Roll, Cherry Fruit Cup

3/24 - Country Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Glazed Carrots, Pink Blushing Pears, Dinner Roll

3/25 - Pork Cutlet, Italian Green Beans, Apricots, Stewed Tomatoes, Dinner Rolls, Fruit Snacks

3/26 - Cheeseburger, Oven Potatoes, Baked Beans, Orange Juice, Rice Krispy Treat

3/27 - Fish Sandwich, Cheesy Potatoes, Capri Blend Vegetables, Fruit Cocktail, Granola Bar

3/30 - Country Fried Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Strawberries, Angel Food Cake, Dinner Roll

3/31 - Ham & Cheese Casserole, Stewed Tomatoes, Spinach Salad, Hot Apple-sauce, Dinner Roll

The Dining Center Title III-C Nutrition Program is partially funded by the Older Americans Act, sponsored through AOoA, ODA and administered by Paulding County.

Low Sodium/Fat Entree and Non-Concentrated Sweet

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 • Gold Sponsor: \$1,000 and greater donation
 Harlan Days 2026 will be July 30, July 31 & August 1st!
 Signage close to the headquarters tent listing all of our 2026 sponsors!
 Sponsors will be announced all 3 days of the festival!
 For more information please call Rachael at (260)760-2474 or email at Rachaelann549@yahoo.com.

Dessert Modified Meals are available. Swiss Steak or Chef Salad can be ordered in place of liver & onions up to two

days prior. Contact the PCSC for additional information.

OHIO 4-H SPARK EXPO PROPELS STUDENTS TOWARD FUTURE CAREERS IN 2026



COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio 4-H is expanding its commitment to preparing tomorrow's workforce when the 2026 Spark EXPO returns June 10-13, 2026.

Hosted on The Ohio State University's Columbus campus by the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences, this immersive career exploration program invites students who have completed eighth and ninth grade in the 2025-26 academic year to explore emerging fields, connect with industry and university experts, and gain confidence in their next steps after high school.

Unlike traditional career fairs or classroom lessons, Spark EXPO places students directly into real-world environments where they can experiment, problem-solve and immerse themselves in campus life.

During the 2026 Spark EXPO, participants will:

- Explore high-demand career pathways across biosciences, engineering, agriculture, food systems, technology, and health sciences through hands-on sessions and demonstrations.
- Experience life as a Buckeye by staying in residence halls, dining on campus, and engaging with students, faculty, and Extension profes-

sionals.

- Strengthen essential workforce skills such as communication, collaboration, and creative thinking in an environment designed to build confidence and readiness.

Participants also experience the program's impact firsthand.

Registration information Registration for the 2026 Spark EXPO opened January 1 and closes April 11. Space is limited, and early registration is encouraged. Scholarships are available to ensure all interested students can participate.

For more information or to register, visit go.osu.edu/4hsparkexpo.

Ohio 4-H programs reach youth in all 88 counties, engaging more than 84,000 participants each year through Ohio State University Extension educators and dedicated volunteers. 4-H empowers young people to explore their interests, develop lifelong skills, and grow into leaders who positively impact their communities.

METAL ORGANIC FRAME WORKS

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

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15th ANNUAL 25 FAMILY Garage Sale: Saturday, March 14th 9-3; 13720 First St. Fudergong building Grabill, IN. Antiques, jewelry, keys, linens, crafting items, books, puzzles, hot wheels, glassware, housewares, pocket knives, retro video games, NIP small appliance, much more. Food served all day visit country shops mall while in town. Please consider bringing non-perishable or monetary donation for the Grabill Food Pantry. Containers will be set up.

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

logical uses, some in agriculture, others in electronics, and even medicine.

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

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

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

There are many metal ions that can be used to form MOF's for many different uses. However, some are more toxic than others. In descend-

due to higher percentage of various solids.

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

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

—James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

A SWEET TASTE OF SPRING: OHIO STATE PARKS MAPLE SYRUP FESTIVALS ARE BACK

COLUMBUS, Ohio — As winter begins to fade, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Parks and Watercraft will soon be celebrating one of the season's most anticipated traditions, maple syrup season. This March, visitors are invited to four Ohio State Parks to experience the sights, smells, and flavors of maple sugaring through hands-on demonstrations, outdoor adventures, and plenty of sweet treats.

Park visitors are invited to check out maple syrup festivals happening at Ohio State Parks.

"Maple syrup season is a special time in Ohio," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz.

Hueston Woods State Park - 59th Annual Maple Syrup Festival

March 14-15, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Take a scenic hayride from the beach parking lot to a guided hike through the 200-acre "Big Woods," a state nature preserve. Learn the science and tradition of syrup making, then treat yourself to local maple syrup and refreshments available for purchase. A breakfast buffet featuring pancakes will also be available at the lodge

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. - \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 10 and under.

Malabar Farm State Park - 49th Annual Maple Syrup Festival

March 14-15, 12:00-4:00 p.m.

Experience a sugar camp with live historic and modern syrup-making demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, food, and tasty maple products to sample and purchase. Visitors can also take a self-guided tour of the historic "Big House."

Hocking Hills State Park - Maple Sugaring in the Hills

March 14-15, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Visit the naturalist cabin behind the Old Man's Cave visitor center to see how sap transforms into maple syrup. Through live demonstrations, learn about the deep-rooted history of maple sugaring in Ohio. A local producer will be on hand with syrup available for purchase.

Indian Lake State Park - Maple Syrup Festival

March 21, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and March 22, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Watch a live demonstration showcasing the transformation of sap into maple syrup. A pancake and sausage breakfast featuring pure maple syrup served up by the Indian Lake Development Corporation will also be available both days - \$8 for adults and \$4 for children.

All festivals are free and open to the public but be sure to bring cash to support local vendors and take home some of Ohio's finest maple syrup.

Recognized as the No. 1 state park system in America with the 2025 National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management, the ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft provides exceptional outdoor recreation and boating opportunities by balancing outstanding customer service, education, and conservation of Ohio's 76 state parks and waterways.

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VILLAGE OF PAYNE NAMES BRANDON SHUHERK AS NEW CHIEF OF POLICE



Pictured above are (l-r) Con Shuherk (Brandon's father), Kathryn (Brandon's wife), (in front) daughter Kimberly-Ann, Brandon Shuherk, son Olivander, and Ann Shuherk

PAYNE - With the changing of the seasons comes a changing of the guard for the Village of Payne. Village officials have announced that Brandon Shuherk has been named the community's new Chief of Police.

Shuherk, a longtime resident of the Payne area, brings more than a decade of law enforcement and public service experience to the position. The son of Con and Ann Shuherk, he moved to the Payne area from Oak Harbor, Ohio as a preschooler and has spent most of his life in the community he now serves.

Shuherk attended Saint John's Catholic School, now known as Divine Mercy, before continuing his education at Wayne Trace. During his senior year he open enrolled at Paulding High School and ultimately graduated through Vantage Career Center.

In 2013, Shuherk graduated from the Vantage Police Academy and began his career in public safety as a part-time dispatcher and assistant dog warden with the Paulding County Sheriff's Office. He was soon offered a full-time position in dispatch and also served as a Reserve Deputy with the Sheriff's Office until 2014.

While working at the Dog Warden's Office, Shuherk met his wife, Kathryn. The couple married in 2017 and moved into their home in the Village of Payne that same year. Together they have a 13-year-old stepson, Olivander, and a three-year-old daughter, Kimberly-Ann.

In 2022, Shuherk returned to the Paulding Police Department in a full-time role before accepting his most recent position in 2023 as the nighttime officer with the Payne Police

Department as a part-time officer in 2016. In 2017, he accepted a full-time position with the Hicksville Police Department, where he served until 2022.

Continuing to expand his public safety skills, Shuherk also entered the EMS field in 2024. After successfully passing the National Registry ex-

amination, he became an Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), allowing him to better assist Payne EMS and Fire when needed.

PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS "MAMMA MIA!" SPRING MUSICAL



Pictured: Front Row: Audrey Stoller, Tessa Metcalf, Sheyenne Shepherd, Isabelle Lamb, Aleah Matty, Delaney Dachenhaus. Row 2: Tori Schlatter, Kayleigh Dunham, Eva Shull, Anabel Martinez, Esther Lemieux, Lincoln Manz, Dash Schweinsberg, Co-Director Anna Wilhelm. Row 3: Music Director Noah Elliott, Vivi Myers, Lucy Porter, Allison Manz, Yoselin Cortes Becerra, Makenna Manz, Jack Daeger, Ridge Hunt, Wesley Grindstaff. Back Row: Cypress Acevedo, Co-Director - Jon Rhodes, Dani Borland, Shohawna Shepherd. Missing: Trenton Manz, Xander Schwab, Laila Stiltner, Kyler Foor, Molly Hull, Miley Clark, Brynlee Mangette, Jayla Griffith, Ellie Krynock, Choreographer- Megan Dearth

PAULDING - The Paulding High School Drama Department invites the community to travel to the Greek Isles this spring with its production of the hit musical Mamma Mia! Performances will take place Thursday, March 20 and Friday, March 21 at 7:00 p.m. at Paulding High School.

Set on a picturesque island paradise, Mamma Mia! tells the story of Sophie, a young bride-to-be who secretly invites three men from her mother's past to her wed-

ding in hopes of discovering which one is her father. Featuring the music of ABBA, the show includes many well-known songs audiences love and promises an evening filled with humor, heart, and energetic performances by Paulding students.

The production is directed by Anna Wilhelm and Jon Rhodes, with Noah Elliott serving as musical director and choreography by Megan Dearth.

Before each performance,

the Paulding High School Junior Class will host a meal beginning at 5:00 p.m. to help support this year's prom. Meals will be available giving attendees the opportunity to enjoy dinner before the show while supporting Paulding students.

Community members are encouraged to come early, enjoy a meal, and stay for an entertaining evening of music and theater as Paulding High School brings the beloved musical Mamma Mia! to the stage.

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Shuherk said he is honored to step into the role of police chief in the community he has

long called home.

"I am truly honored and excited to begin my new role as Chief," Shuherk said. "I look forward to continuing to serve and protect the residents of my beloved hometown while continuing to learn and improve wherever I can."

As Chief of Police, Shuherk will lead the department in its mission to serve and protect the residents of Payne while continuing to build strong relationships within the community.

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