

# WEST BEND NEWS

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VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 11

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

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

## ANTWERP RECEIVES \$2.3 MILLION STATE GRANT FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT



ANTWERP — The Village of Antwerp has been awarded \$2.3 million in state funding to support a major workforce housing development project that has been more than a decade in the making. Ohio Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Development recently announced \$9 million in statewide grants aimed at encouraging residential growth and workforce housing, with Antwerp receiving one of only five awards across Ohio.

Other communities receiving funding include Youngstown and Hamilton, each receiving \$2.5 million, Lancaster receiving \$1 million, and Warren receiving \$851,000. The grants were awarded from a highly competitive pool of 48 applications requesting nearly \$99 million in funding.

The Antwerp project, now known as Antwerp Square, will create more than 100 residential building lots on approximately 90 acres of land located between Antwerp Local School and the US24 highway. The grant funding will help extend essential infrastructure such as roads, water, sewer, and natural gas services needed to prepare the site for future home construction.

Planning for the development began shortly after the completion of the US24 highway in 2012. Early efforts involved securing property options near the US24 and State Route 49 interchange through collaboration between the Antwerp, Payne, and Paulding County Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) and the Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office.

Progress accelerated after Jane and Leo Stumphy donated a residential property that provided access from State Route 49 into the development. (Continued on Page 3)

## PAULDING CHAMBER'S LEADERSHIP IN ACTION CLASS SEEKS COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community service project will help expand accessible transportation for Paulding County seniors

PAULDING, Ohio — The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce 2026 Leadership in Action class is leading a community service project to help raise funds for a much-needed wheelchair-accessible van for the Paulding County Senior Center.

Leadership in Action encourages participants to identify a meaningful local need and work together on a project that creates lasting impact. This year's class selected the Senior Center project because accessible transportation can be life-changing for residents who need mobility support and reliable access to care and community resources.

Partnering with the United Way of Paulding County, the class is working to help meet a \$26,500 fundraising goal in response to growing transportation needs for local seniors. The additional van would help provide safe, dependable transportation for appointments, services, activities, and daily community connection.

Community members and businesses are invited to support the effort through gen-

(Continued on Page 4)

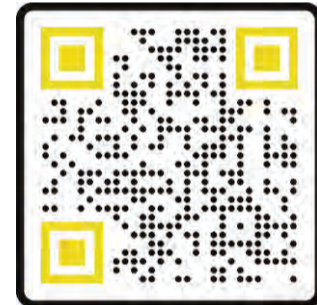
## NORTHWEST STATE'S VAN WERT CAMPUS INVITES GAMERS TO OUR INAUGURAL MARIO KART TOURNAMENT

VAN WERT, Ohio — Northwest State Community College is thrilled to announce the opening of our brand new Esports Lab at your Van Wert Campus. To celebrate, NSCC is holding an inaugural Mario Kart tournament from 5:00–8:00 p.m. EST on Tuesday, March 31st at the Van Wert Campus, 520 East Sycamore Street.

The event is free and open to all ages. Food and drinks will be provided, along with prizes and NSCC swag! In addition to being able to play in the tournament, attendees can try out our new esports gaming stations, explore the lab, and learn more about the growing world of competitive gaming and associated college programs.

"This new lab represents another way Northwest State is creating engaging learning opportunities while connecting with the community," said Kyle Klinker, NSCC Esports

(Continued on Page 2)



## Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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Woodburn & Grabill Hardware	3

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 17

• Alzheimer Consult Walk-Ins @ PC Senior Center, 9-10a  
• Caregiver Support Group @ PC Senior Center, 10a  
• Finance Committee Meeting @ Defiance Library, 1p

March 18

• Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p  
• Health, Business & Industry Fair @ PC Ext. Bldg., 11a-2p  
• Defiance Co PERI Meeting @ Delaware Twp Firehall, 1p

March 19

• Community Lenten Service @ Auglaize Chapel Church, Oakwood, 7p

March 20

• Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p  
• The Addams Family @ Antwerp HS, 7p

March 21

• The Addams Family @ Antwerp HS, 7p  
• Napoleonic War Garrison @ Old Fort Wayne, 9a-5p

March 22

• The Addams Family @ Antwerp HS, 2p

March 23

• Defiance Legends & Lore Presentation @ St. John's UCC, Defiance, 7p

March 24

• Trivia on Tap @ Iron Horse Brews, Sherwood, 6p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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# JIM SCHMIDT CHEVROLET COMMITS \$5,000 GOLD SPONSORSHIP FOR DAF GALA



Pictured are Jim and Karen Schmidt with DAF Administrative Assistant Dani Figley.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) is pleased to announce that Jim Schmidt Chevrolet Dealership has committed a \$5,000 sponsorship as a Gold Sponsor for the Foundation's 2026 Gala, to be held October 3.

Jim and Karen Schmidt's generous support helps ad-

vance the Foundation's mission and grow the Community Fund, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations serving Defiance County. The DAF is grateful for their continued investment in the community and their commitment to building a lasting legacy of generosity.

## 16-0

By: James Neuhouser

A perfect season. A once in a lifetime event. You couldn't have scripted this in your wildest dreams. Yet they pulled it off. I recall the Miami Dolphins perfect season in the NFL.

A perfect season, a Heisman trophy winner, and a national championship. Years of preparation and almost impossible to accomplish. Ciginiti said he went three straight nights with only 3 hours of sleep each night. This is from an interview with the coach taken two weeks after the fact.

How do you feel? Rushed. Still coming down from the hype of everything that happened. The interviewers heart was racing. Did the coach have the same experience. No, I had to keep myself under control. We took chances, but we were in it, to win it. We play fast, relentless, and physical. We will not consider a player unless he is tough. We don't make silly mistakes. We average one penalty in every thirty plays, but we try not to hurt

ourselves.

I would like to say something about playing fast. I have a grandson playing for Carroll High School and they run every play just as quickly as they can get regrouped. This year they played a couple of teams where they got ahead by 2 touchdowns and you just knew the game was over. They were playing against slow deliberate schools, that took the full 35 seconds to run each play.

Carroll lost the sectional to Warsaw last year. Warsaw ran straight ahead every play gaining two or three yards. They had the ball the entire third quarter. Football rules allow too much time between plays, and whoever heard of stopping a game without even playing.

You form your habits, then your habits form you. You teach people to think alike. You change their expectations. Life is about habits and decisions. Everything is earned not given. We play one play at a time. After the play is over, even if we fail, we forget it and concentrate on to the next play.

levels are encouraged to attend, compete, or simply stop by to check out the new space. You'll also be able to see our new esports team mascot, the NSCC Van Wert Vortex.

Please use the QR code to pre-register and reserve your spot (and your pizza!).

Football has completely changed. With the transfer portal, successful teams can buy successful players. You try to recruit the best high school players, but now you also have a class of transfers. We live in a want it now society. The coach is either a hero or a bum. We try to teach that the stage is never too big. They had a number of close games that they shouldn't have won, but somehow were able to pull them out.

I've always wondered what makes a good coach or a good leader. In Indiana basketball we had a coach that won 80% of the games in his lifetime. He surely had to have some years with poor teams. When I was at Leo, our coach Whitey Heller, coached for 10 years and never had a losing season.

A word about the IU quarterback, he's a devout Catholic and quite outspoken about his faith. If you saw his mother at the games she is has been dealt a life of living in a wheelchair. He was an outstanding quarterback in the Miami High School but the University of Miami, would not even let him walk on. He played the title game in his hometown against his home university.

I heard the Miami quarterback state that he would not be good enough to even make their practice team yet he made one of the biggest plays of the game. I think something can be said for being humble. At least two of IU's leading players, had stepped in when a starter was injured early in the season.

I am not what you would call an IU fan. I enjoy watching sports but I could take them or leave them. Not particularly a fan of tackle football, but this was an incredible feat.

## WEATHER WHIPLASH RAISES FINANCIAL RISK FOR OHIO FARMERS

Ohio farmers are increasingly being forced to manage two opposing threats in the same growing season: too much water and not enough.

In 2025, the state experienced its fifth-wettest April-to-July period on record, followed just months later by its driest August since record keeping began in 1895. Temperatures shifted sharply as well, from a colder-than-average May to record-warm overnight lows in early summer. This "weather whiplash" directly affects crop development, grain fill and yield potential.

To help producers reduce risk and protect profitability, researchers and Ohio State University Extension specialists with The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES) are expanding statewide weather monitoring, advancing drainage and soil health research, and delivering science-based decision tools tailored to local conditions across Ohio's 88 counties.

"Weather whiplash refers to the extreme oscillation in conditions in either a temperature sense or precipitation sense," said Aaron Wilson, assistant professor with CFAES, agricultural weather and climate field specialist with OSU Extension, and state climatologist with the

university's State Climate Office of Ohio. "We had both types of examples in 2025."

Extremes within a single season

May 2025 was 2 to 6 degrees Fahrenheit below normal across Ohio. That cooler spring was followed by an exceptionally warm June and July, particularly overnight.

"Most counties in Ohio experienced their record warmest-average overnight low for those two months," Wilson said.

Those temperature shifts accelerated crop development. Growing degree days, a measure of heat accumulation that drives plant growth, moved from well below normal at the end of May to well above normal by late August. The rankings span the full climate record from 1895 to 2025.

Precipitation followed a similar pattern. The April-to-July period ranked as the fifth-wettest on record statewide. Just months later, Ohio recorded its driest August on record.

"The rapid oscillations in precipitation extremes certainly match the trends we've seen, and they are impactful for agriculture," Wilson said. "Since timing of production is so vital, a rapid drying period or deluge during important periods — for example, planting, pollination and harvest — can make or break a season."

Late-season drying is especially concerning for corn and soybean producers because August moisture is critical for grain fill. Even short-term stress during that window can reduce yield potential.

Flash droughts, or rapid onset dry conditions, are becoming more common, even in years that rank among Ohio's wettest.

"Drought has always been a part of the natural cycle of hydrology in Ohio," Wilson said. While prolonged, multi-year droughts were more common in the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s, "shorter-term 'flash-drought' conditions have become more common," he said.

He pointed to Pickaway County as one example. In 2024, the county experienced D4 exceptional drought, the most intense drought of four categories assigned by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Between April and July 2025, more than 30 inches of rain fell there.

For farmers, that volatility complicates decisions about planting, replanting and harvest timing.

"The message has been consistent: Be ready to roll in the spring when the time is right," Wilson said.

Modern equipment allows more acres to be planted in shorter windows. But when soil conditions swing from saturated to powder dry in a matter of weeks, decisions about equipment, herbicide performance and input timing become more complex and more costly if misjudged.

As weather variability intensifies, adaptation must be localized and grounded in research, Wilson said.

CFAES scientists are examining drainage management, soil health strategies and precision agriculture approaches that offer what Wilson described as "win-win opportunities." These

## Scripture of the Week

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

— Romans 8:28

## THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD



John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

This opening verse of the Gospel of John sets a profound theological foundation. It introduces the concept of the "Word" (Logos), which signifies Jesus Christ as the divine incarnation. John emphasizes that Jesus was not only present at the creation of the world but is also an integral part of the Godhead.

1. Eternal Existence: The phrase "In the beginning" points to the preeminence of Christ over creation and time itself. He existed before anything else was made, signifying His eternal nature.

2. Divine Relationship: The statement "the Word was with God" highlights the intimate relationship between Jesus and the Father. This relationship is not just one of proximity but is rooted in unity, suggesting that knowing Jesus is

knowing God.

3. The Nature of Christ: The declaration "the Word was God" affirms the deity of Christ. He is fully divine, and this is pivotal to understanding His role in salvation and His authority to teach and perform miracles.

We find that light symbolizes purity, truth, and guidance throughout Scripture. In John 8:12, Jesus declares, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

This highlights that Jesus not only illuminates our understanding of God but also provides guidance and hope in a world often shrouded in darkness and confusion, which is so prevalent in today's society. He is the ultimate source of truth, directing us away from sin and towards a relationship with God.

In summary, John 1:1 lays the groundwork for recognizing Jesus as the eternal Word who brings light into the world, guiding us toward truth and salvation. Embracing this light requires a response of faith, turning away from the darkness of sin and accepting the transformative power of Christ in our lives. We need Jesus today more than ever. Keep walking in the light. When the light comes, the darkness has to flee. Jesus is the light! Stay in the Light, and you will always see clearly. Jesus loves you, and so do I.

Peace & Love,  
—Pastor Dwayne

practices can improve resilience while maintaining profitability.

"The more we can connect these strategies to the benefits farmers may receive is crucial for their adoption," he said.

The college is also expanding the Ohio Mesonet, a statewide network of weather stations that supports agricultural models and pesticide alerts. By strengthening access to localized climate data and decision tools, CFAES and OSU Extension are helping farmers respond more effectively to fast-changing conditions.

A critical year ahead  
Soil moisture remains a concern heading into the 2026 growing season.

"It has been an abysmal soil moisture recharge season in Ohio," Wilson said.

Although snowfall has been above average in many areas, it has not delivered enough moisture to offset deficits that have accumulated over the past six to 12 months. Much of northwest Ohio remains 6 to 12 inches below normal over the past six months, contributing to

D3 extreme drought conditions.

Forecasts indicate a higher probability of above-normal precipitation in late winter and early spring. But recovery depends on how that precipitation arrives.

"We need time for the water to soak deeper into the soil layer and not come down so heavy that it remains at the surface or washes off into the streams," Wilson said.

His message for Ohio producers over the next five to 10 years is direct.

"Water management is key. Be prepared to deal with too much and too little water in the same season," he said.

**HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?**

Let your friends and neighbors know for **FREE** in the **West Bend News.**

(pictures are extra)

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**WHERE'S THE CHOCOLATE?**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**

**By: Nancy Whitaker**

Each time we go shopping, we see lots of items for the upcoming holiday. It seemed as if Christmas was just over, when Valentine's Day merchandise arrived. Then came St Patrick's Day and the green items we buy to celebrate and the day isn't quite here yet.

Now there is Easter baskets, decorations, peeps, chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies and so many of the treats that I love lining the shelves. My kids and I love the Cadbury eggs with that creamy filling, coconut eggs, and oh yes the peanut butter ones. Yum, I hope I get a basket.

I just read, and maybe you did too, that the company that makes peanut butter eggs (Reese's) is cutting back on their delicious chocolate covering. The Hershey Company makes Reese's Peanut butter cups after purchasing the company in 1963. Brad Reese, grandson of the inventor of Reese's peanut butter cups, bought a bag of the Reese's chocolate hearts for Valentines Day. His mouth was prepared to taste the creamy peanut butter and the good chocolate coating on Grandpas Reese's brand.

Brad took one bite and spit it out saying, "It was not edible. I used to eat a Reese's product every day, and this is very devastating for me. In his quest for information, he

learned that Hershey's was using and replacing the milk chocolate with a compound coating and peanut butter with a peanut butter like cream to save money. A new word was created called skimpflation.

Disgusted, Brad launched a campaign against Hershey's. His grandfather had started the company in 1928 and the Reese's still cared about the brand. He also revamped his website saying "Brad Reese Protecting Reese's Brand Integrity."

I always buy Reese's eggs for Easter and I wish we could taste them before buying. For the benefit of the doubt, cocoa beans comes from Africa and weather-related issues has disrupted the growing of cocoa



beans.

I remember way back when the 5 and 10 Stores were open you could go in and buy a big chocolate Easter egg with your name on it. I don't think they had peanut butter ones, but they were really good.

I sure am not picking on the Hershey Company, but I do like my peanut butter cups. Now, do you like Easter Candy? I could eat one right now and hopefully they will let the Easter bunny bring those good Reese's peanut butter eggs. Do you make up Easter Baskets and what is your favorite kind of Easter candy? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

parcel was owned by Antwerp Community Church, but funding for the purchase was not immediately available. To help complete the acquisition, the CIC offered naming rights for the first access road. Local resident Sue Meyer stepped forward, allowing the roadway to be named Meyer Avenue and providing the funds necessary to purchase the easement property.

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey credited years of teamwork and persistence for bringing the project to this point. He noted that families, churches, investors, businesses, and local government officials all played roles in moving the plan forward, with as many as seven sets of attorneys involved during the process.

"This award reflects years of teamwork among families, the church, county, township and village elected officials, businesses, the CIC, investors, and our PCED office," Copsey said, noting that the recognition as one of Ohio's top residential growth projects makes the long process worthwhile.

With the state funding now secured, Antwerp leaders say the project is poised to attract new families, support workforce needs, and strengthen long-term population growth in both the village and the surrounding region.

The development represents one of the most significant housing investments in the history of Paulding County and highlights the community collaboration that helped bring the long-planned project to life.

**REP. KLOPFENSTEIN APPLAUDS WORKFORCE HOUSING GRANT DESIGNATED FOR VILLAGE OF ANTWERP**

COLUMBUS, OH – State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) today applauded the recent announcement by Governor Mike DeWine and the Ohio Department of Development that the Village of Antwerp in Paulding County will receive a \$2.3 million grant to support the creation of workforce housing through the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) program.

The Village of Antwerp is set to receive a \$2.3 million grant to support the development of 345 workforce housing units through major infrastructure and roadway improvements. Funding will be used to construct new roadways, drainage systems, sanitary sewer lines, and water infrastructure needed to support a high-density residential development.

"Workforce housing is critical for the continued growth of our communities. This investment in our community will help create more housing opportunities for families and workers in Paulding County while supporting the area's economic development. I appreciate the support from Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Development in helping make this project possible," said Rep. Klopfenstein.

According to the press release, the Village of Antwerp has established a Priority Workforce Housing District and eliminated development fees to encourage new housing construction. These investments will create a mix of single-family homes, duplexes, and multifamily units while helping address regional workforce housing demand. This project helps support housing demand created by investments from First Quality Tissue in Defiance.

Governor DeWine and the Ohio Department of Development announced last week that more than \$9 million in grants would be provided to support the creation of workforce housing in five counties through the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) program.

**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) bonds. That takes a lot of energy. Lighting is a natural process to break the triple N bond. Lightning 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

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

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**By: Mark Holsberry**

Edmund James Tuohy was born February 22, 1897, in Paulding, Ohio. He was the son of Daniel Frank Tuohy Sr., born March 31, 1858, in Ohio, and Caroline Mary (Schoeder) Tuohy, born in 1867 in Ohio. The couple married in 1888.

By 1900, Daniel and Caroline were living in Auglaize Township, where Daniel was farming. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth, was born April 9, 1888, followed by Emma H. in July 1890, Daniel Frank Jr. on April 23, 1892, Ursula A. in June 1894, and Edmund James on February 22, 1897. A farm laborer, William Adams, was also living with the Tuohy family.

By 1910, the Tuohy family was still living in Auglaize Township. Daniel continued farming with the help of his sons.

On June 5, 1918, Edmund, living with his parents in Auglaize Township, registered for the World War I draft. He was listed as a farmer, 6 feet tall, medium build, with black hair, hazel eyes, a dark complexion, and single.

On August 26, 1918, Edmund joined the National Army out of Paulding. He served with the 159th Depot Brigade as a private until October 22, 1918, when he was transferred to the 1st Development Battalion. Edmund was honorably discharged on De-

ember 9, 1918. After his service, he returned home to help work on the farm with his father. By 1920, Edmund was the only child still living at home.

On June 23, 1925, Edmund married Norma Ruth Heilshorn, who was born September 19, 1908, in Defiance, Ohio.

By 1928, Edmund and Ruth were living in Wyandotte, Michigan, at 2804 Electric Avenue. Edmund was working as a clerk in a post office. A daughter, Madonna Ruth Tuohy, was born in 1928 in Ferndale, Michigan.

By 1930, Edmund, Norma, and Madonna were still living at 2804 Electric Avenue in Wyandotte, Michigan. Edmund was still working at the post office as postmaster.

On June 25, 1933, Edmund was taken to Wyandotte County Hospital in Michigan with acute appendicitis. He underwent surgery on June 26. On July 3, 1933, at 3:00 p.m., Edmund passed away.

His body was brought home to Junction, where he was buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Junction, Row 9, Grave 9.

On July 4, 1934, Edmund's mother, Caroline, passed away and was buried in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Junction.

On November 25, 1937, Norma Ruth Tuohy remarried. Her new husband was Charles Daniel Longeway. They lived at 12237 Memorial Street in Detroit, Michigan.

Their daughter Madonna graduated from high school in 1945. She later married Harold J. Owens on October 11, 1947, in Michigan. They went on to have two daughters and two grandchildren.

On November 18, 1943, Edmund's father, Daniel, passed away. He was buried with Caroline in Junction.

In 1982, Charles passed away. On October 22, 1985, Norma passed away. They were buried in Arizona.

... Until Next Time!

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 hor-

mones 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

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continued from Page 1)

investors helped consolidate the property into the village limits.

In 2025, two Powell, Ohio-based investment groups—B-MJW Investments, LLC and MWB Investments, LLC—completed the land purchase and began preparing the site with surveys and environmental studies. Their planning confirmed the project met the requirement of at least 100 buildable lots necessary to qualify for the state grant.

Another key step involved securing a second access easement for the newly acquired US24 frontage. The needed

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# WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Payne Elementary February Students of the Month have been announced. These students are being recognized for demonstrating the character value of KINDNESS.

Pictured above are (front row) Norah Mawer, Jayce Linder, Madison England, Amelia Schoenauer, Elsie Merriman, Vinny Clay, Thomas Holmes, Haislea Speice, Madilynn Reed, Kaylynn Schwartz, and Zaina Danner; (back row)

Bentley Vance, Clara DeWard, Deacon Boyd, Ethan Valdez, Beckett Taylor, Megan McKinney, Piper Mills, Braylin Miles, and Abbi Miles. Not pictured: Rilee Girardot and Natalie Zartman

# PAULDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOGNIZES FEBRUARY MINDSET MARVELS



Paulding Elementary School recently recognized students as Mindset Marvels, "We are Connected". Pictured above are (bottom row, l-r): Kennedy Combs, Abby Laney, and Mateo Munoz Lara; (middle row, l-r): Elizabeth Chapman, Mason Eddy, Gabriel Tavares Vasquez, Scarlett Thompson, and Gemma Skye Walters; (top row, l-r): Avianna Manz, Quynn Arend, Ellie Branch, Bayne Dasher, Rylan Dunakin, and Abby Cantu. Not pictured: Leo Wannemacher

# OHIO STATE REPORTS A RECORD \$1.68 BILLION IN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

COLUMBUS, Ohio - A record \$1.68 billion in research and development expenditures - that's the new number presented today by The Ohio State University for fiscal year 2025.

"This extraordinary achievement is a clear signal that public and private partners trust that when they invest in Ohio State innovation, they'll get results," President Walter "Ted" Carter Jr. said in announcing the new figures.

"Most impressive is what these dollars buy: life-changing discoveries, economic growth and healthier communities in every corner of our state. I'm incredibly proud of the scholars whose creativity and drive for excellence is making our record-setting success possible. They're proving every day that Ohio State is a true academic powerhouse."

The university's expenditures grew 6% year over year, extending record-breaking

annual increases and continuing Ohio State's growth trajectory. More than just a number, the university's research enterprise powers discoveries that save lives and strengthen communities.

Across 15 colleges, Ohio State scholars are supporting life-saving advances in diagnosing and treating patients, developing cleaner and more sustainable energy solutions, shaping the future of food and agriculture, elevating arts and humanities scholarship, improving economic opportunity, and unlocking the power of artificial intelligence. This collective impact reflects the breadth and depth of a research community committed to discovery, creativity and real-world problem-solving.

"This year's record research expenditures reflect the bold ideas, relentless curiosity, and collaborative spirit that define Ohio State's research and innovation community," said John M. Horack, vice president for research. "These results are a direct testament to the dedication of our faculty, staff, students and partners who push the boundaries

of discovery every day."

More than \$797 million in research funding came from the university's federal partners, a 3% increase from the previous year. Some highlights include nearly \$420 million from the National Institutes of Health - a 5% increase - and \$83.8 million from the Department of War, an increase of 12%. Funding from NASA increased 15% to \$10.1 million.

The university's industry-sponsored research grew 10% to \$174.8 million. Partnerships between Ohio State and business leaders like Honda help develop breakthroughs in battery technology. Starlab Space LLC and the university continue to explore innovations in commercial space and low-earth orbit across disciplines that include materials science, human health and performance, agriculture, microbiology, and more. The Nationwide Center for Advanced Customer Insights, housed in the Fisher College of Business, enhances understanding of consumer behavior with support from Nationwide Insurance.

Ohio State continues to place among the nation's top tier research universities. The new National Science Foundation Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey rankings for fiscal year 2024 placed Ohio State 12th nationally among all universities for total research expenditures - above esteemed research programs at Harvard, Duke and Yale.

The Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge, with support from the university's colleges, tracks annual research and development funding. The combined total of federal, state, industry and institutional support measures the resources available for innovative scientific research and creative expression.

(Leadership... cont'd from Page 1)

eral donations and sponsorships made through the United Way of Paulding County. Checks should be made payable to United Way of Paulding County with "PCSC Van" in the memo line and mailed to 101 E Perry St, Paulding, OH 45879. Donations are being accepted through April 15, 2026. United Way of Paulding County is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, EIN 34-1711867.

Sponsorship opportunities include Bronze at \$50, which includes social media recognition; Silver at \$100, which includes acknowledgement in the newspaper article and social media; Gold at \$250, which includes name recognition on a plaque at the Senior Center, acknowledgement in the newspaper article, and social media recognition; and Platinum at \$500, which includes business name placement on the van, name recognition on a plaque at the Senior Center, acknowledgement in the newspaper article, and social media recognition. These sponsorship levels give local businesses and supporters several meaningful ways to help move the project forward while receiving recognition for their support. You can donate online at <https://united-way-of-pauldingcounty.harnessgiving.org/events/3613>.

For more information, please contact the United Way of Paulding County, [pcuwdirector@gmail.com](mailto:pcuwdirector@gmail.com) or 419-399-8240 or a member of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership in Action class.

(Plant ...cont'd from Page 3)

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

# COUNTRYSIDE KIDS HOST MANY GUEST SPEAKERS



By: Leetim Crites, DHI Media 4-H Writer

PAULDING- On Saturday, March 7, the CountrySide Kids 4-H club hosted a meeting, beginning at 10 a.m. We started the meeting with Emma Miller-White leading the 4H Miller and Dashlyn Schweinsberg leading the pledge of allegiance. We then had our vice president read over the old and new business since the president was absent. After this, we had multiple

guest speakers and talk about their job or hobby. To begin, we had Theresa White, a beekeeper, come in and speak to our group. Next, Officer Rich Phelan and his K-9 unit, Ozzy, came in to speak about his job and his amazing dog. Our final speaker of the day, Caleb Miller, came in to talk about the Buckeye Bulls-eye 4-H club. To wrap up the meeting, the Vice President closed the meeting up, and the meeting came to an ending.

# PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



February Students of the Month for Paulding High School are From L to R: Freshman: Makenna Manz, Sophomore: Gabby Stork, Junior: Myrriah Manz, Senior: Hope Peters

# POSITIVE PANTHERS RECOGNIZED AT PAULDING JUNIOR HIGH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are George Carnahan (Grade 8), Bay Snyder (Grade 6), and Ryan Lin (Grade 7).

## Harlan Days 2026 Looking for Sponsors!

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# PJHS ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture above (l-r) are Adalyn Miller (Grade 7), Sage Paputsakis (Grade 6), and Katherine Arend (Grade 8).

## ODNR AWARDS 6 GRANTS TO BOOST LOCAL ECONOMIES

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Mineral Resources Management (MRM) has awarded funding for six new projects that will benefit communities impacted by abandoned coal mines throughout Ohio. The projects, funded by the Abandoned Mine Lands Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, will address and promote economic and environmental opportunities within historic coal mining communities.

ODNR's AMLER Program goes beyond environmental restoration, it invests in projects that help reinvigorate communities histori-

cally reliant on coal mining, fostering sustainable economic opportunities and long-term growth in coal-field regions.

A previous AMLER grant funded hanger development at Richard Downing Airport in Coshocton County.

"ODNR's AMLER program is competitive and aims to rejuvenate communities across the state," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "It's important to take these lands and turn them into places and spaces that benefit the people who live there, whether it's a new park or restoring historic buildings, we want communities with a coalmining history to thrive."

The interior of the Knights of Pythias building in Glouster, Ohio. A previously announced AMLER

grant is funding both interior and exterior renovations, including the addition of an elevator.

Projects will benefit communities with abandoned coal mines and are wide ranging in scope, serving several counties, including Belmont, Coshocton, Gallia, Monroe, Stark, and Trumbull.

AMLER funding has been granted to the follow projects:

**Black Horse Inn Underground Railroad "Night at the Museum" Airbnb - Morristown Historic Preservation Association**

Belmont County - \$772,992

The project will convert the second floor of the historic Black Horse Inn into overnight lodging, including an ADA-compliant unit. The project will create a unique "Night at the Museum" lodging experience that will complement the Underground Railroad Museum being developed on the first floor. The museum renovations are part of a previous Appalachian Community Grant Program (ACGP) award.

**Joe Ballo Landing Park - Franklin Township and Conesville Village Joint Recreation Board**

Coshocton County - \$371,250

This project will transform a portion of a former coal-fired power plant site into a regional riverfront park. The project will reclaim land that has previously been impacted by historic coal mining and repurpose the land for public recreation and conservation. Planned amenities include a picnic shelter, walking trails, fishing access, and launch points for kayaking, canoeing and tubing.

**Mercerville Trailhead Project - Guyan Township**

Gallia County - \$1,300,000

The Mercerville Trailhead will serve as a recreation hub connecting thousands of acres of public land to local communities. The trailhead will include a pavilion with public restrooms, a water station, and parking areas with bike racks. Infrastructure to host vendors and food trucks will also be installed.

**Inland Waterways Maritime Academy Deckhand Training Center - Sons and Daughters of Pioneer Rivermen**

Monroe County - \$767,539

The project will expand and enhance Appalachian Ohio's first river maritime training center, the Inland Waterways Maritime Academy. This project will construct a deckhand training pad, renovate a pole barn into a multi-use classroom and equipment facility and make upgrades to the visitor's center.

**City of North Canton Stratavon Mine Reclamation Project - The City of North Canton**

Stark County - \$3,000,000

The City of North Canton will identify and mitigate extensive underground abandoned coal mines northwest of the city. The impacted areas will then be redeveloped for commercial and public recreation purposes.

**Museum of Science Fiction & Fantasy Arts - Trumbull County Historical Society**

Trumbull County - \$2,300,000

The Museum of Science Fiction & Fantasy Arts (MoSFA) will transform a vacant downtown building into a 14,000 sq. ft. museum celebrating the science behind science fiction and fantasy. The project will provide hands-on STEM and workforce training through a CGI Learning Lab.

Addressing environmental, economic, and safety challenges associated with abandoned lands and surrounding communities will foster growth in employment, tourism, recreation, and business opportunities, among other benefits.

The Division of Mineral Resources Management oversees the safe and environmentally sound development and restoration of mineral and fossil fuel extraction sites. The division also restores abandoned mine land, enforces mining safety laws, and ensures the protection of citizens, land and water resources.

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

## TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR DEBT, ONE STEP AT A TIME

If you're dealing with debt, you're far from alone. More than 80% of U.S. households carry some form of debt (2025 Federal Reserve report), and since 2019, total household debt for Americans has increased more than 31%, to \$18.59 trillion.

While debt can help you achieve important goals, such as buying a home or getting an education, it can also create strain on your life and finances. If you only make minimum payments, for example, you'll hold debt longer and pay more in interest.

Having a clear debt reduction plan can help you take control, reduce anxiety and even save money.

Know your debt. The first step is understanding what you owe. Make a comprehensive list of all your debts, including credit cards, mortgages, auto loans, student loans and medical bills. For each one, note the total amount owed, the interest rate and your minimum payment requirements.

Next, add it all up to see your total debt load. Then calculate your debt-to-income ratio by dividing your total monthly debt payments by your gross monthly income. A good rule of thumb is to keep this ratio below 35% if you have a mortgage or 20% if you don't.

Manage what you owe. Now that you have the big picture, look for opportunities to reorganize your debt more effectively. Perhaps you can refinance existing loans at lower interest rates, consolidate multiple debts into a single payment or transfer high-interest credit card balances to cards that offer lower or 0% introductory rates for up to 12 months.

These strategies won't reduce the total amount you owe, but they can make your debt more manageable and potentially save you money on interest. Just watch out for fees and make sure you understand new terms before

making changes.

Set your payment target. Start by identifying your required minimum payments across all debts. Missing these can trigger fees and penalties and damage your credit score, so treat them as non-negotiable expenses in your budget.

Next, look at your budget to identify any funds available after covering all essential expenses. Consider how much of this surplus to put toward paying down debt versus saving for other goals. Remember that building an emergency fund and saving for retirement are also important priorities that shouldn't be sidelined.

If you have no surplus, you may need to cut back on things like eating out, clothes shopping, on-line subscriptions, entertainment or expensive vacations while you bring your debt in line. Consider an additional part-time job for extra income to pay off your debt sooner.

Prioritize your debt. Finally, decide which debts to tackle first with any extra payments. One approach is to focus on paying off the debt with the highest interest rate first, which minimizes the total interest you'll pay over time. Alternately, you can target the smallest balance first to help you build momentum and motivation.

Taking control of your debt doesn't happen overnight, but with a clear strategy, you can make steady progress toward your financial goals.

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

**Edward Jones**  
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**Bryan R Post**  
Financial Advisor  
117 E High Street  
Hicksville, OH 43526  
419-542-6260

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## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

- OHIO LOCATIONS**
- Antwerp:** Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss, Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart
- Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House
- Continental:** ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy
- Defiance:** Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch
- Edgerton:** USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
- Grover Hill:** N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General
- Hicksville:** Sailers, Vancrest, Shell Station, Citgo, Marathon, Dollar General, Senior Center, Village offices, Johnson Memorial Library, Red Angel Pizza, McDonalds
- Ney:** Marathon
- Oakwood:** Oakwood Market, The Oakleaf, Dollar General, Cooper Library, Landing Strip
- Paulding:** Ace Hardware, Bargain Bin, Board of Elections, Chief, Corner Market, Courthouse, Dairy Queen, Dollar General, Gardens of Paulding, Gorrell Bros, Holly, Wood & Vine, Integrity Ford, Kwik Mart, Maramart, Napa Do It Best, PC Sheriff's Office, PCH, PC
- Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587
- Payne:** Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, Vancrest of Payne
- Sherwood:** Post Office, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library, Village Food Emporium
- Scott:** Scott Post Office
- Van Wert:** CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Orchard Tree

- INDIANA LOCATIONS**
- Fort Wayne:** Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living, Hahn Systems, Walmart
- Grabill:** Grabill Hardware, Farm Building Supply, Save-A-Lot/Grabill Country Sales
- Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar General, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp Exchange 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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# FIVE DISTRICT PLACERS, FOUR PUNCH THEIR TICKET TO STATE



Paulding's Civil Pumphrey finished Districts in the 3<sup>rd</sup> place spot on the podium to move forward to State. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



Paulding's Landon Dasher placed 4<sup>th</sup> place at Districts and will wrestle at the State level. Photo by Carrie Kimmel



From Antwerp, Maddilan Doster finished 3<sup>rd</sup> and will now wrestle at State. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

By: Carrie Kimmel

Over the weekend, seventeen Paulding County wrestlers, 11 boys and 6 girls, competed at the District Tournament for a chance to advance to the State Championships.

Paulding advanced three of its four qualifiers, with Civil Pumphrey, Landon Dasher, and Thor "Stroker" Etter all earning state berths. Antwerp also celebrated a historic moment as Maddilan Doster became the school's



Thor "Stroker" Etter's 3<sup>rd</sup> place stance on the podium earned him a place at State competition. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

first-ever girls state qualifier. Wayne Trace's Colton Kimmel finished on the podium as well, placing 6th and narrowly missing a state qualification.

### Girls District Results

Paulding's Civil Pumphrey opened her tournament with a dominant 8-1 victory over Abby Furr (Wapakoneta). She followed with a pin over Cora Frederick (Vermillion) in 5:33. Pumphrey fell in the semifinal to Anna Madi (Brecksville) by pin in 3:39 but rebounded in the consolation semifinal, pinning Kendyll Salyer (Seneca East) in 2:24. She secured a strong 3rd-place finish with a commanding 13-0 win over Frederick in the placement match and securing her return to the state competition floor.

Antwerp's Maddilan Doster had an outstanding day on the mats. She opened with a 56-second pin over Kena Delva (Lima Senior) and added another fall in the quarterfinals, pinning Effie Klauda (Evergreen) in 1:37. After dropping her semifinal match to Evie Parmelee (Liberty-Benton) in 5:05, Doster battled back with a 3-2 win over Madyson Smith (Montpelier). She finished 3rd overall after a decisive 12-7 victory over Tamiya Whittsette (John Adams), becoming Antwerp's first girls state qualifier.

### Boys District Results

Paulding's Landon Dasher dropped his opening match to Bronx Dickson (Indian Lake) by pin in 51 seconds but stormed back with three straight pins—Camden Dowdy (Grandview Hts.) in 1:18, Simon Peters (Madeira) in 4:47, and Wyatt Curnutte (Clearview NE) in 2:47—to secure his state qualification. Dasher finished 4th after falling to Cole Winemiller (Graham Local) in 2:17.

Panther Thor Etter opened with a lightning-fast 15-second pin over Cooper Stevens (Waynesville) and followed with a 10-9 win over Gabe Krieger (Graham Local). Etter fell in the semifinals to Brady Volz (Finneytown) 10-4 but dominated the consolation semifinal with a 15-2 victory over Connor Hockenbery (West Jefferson), clinching his return to state. He finished 3rd after pinning Krieger in just 14 seconds.

Wayne Trace's Colton Kimmel earned a first-round pin over Landon Abt (Blanchester). He then fell to Spencer Shore (Miami East) 21-1 but rebounded with pins over Cameron Kelsch (Norwood) in 2:04 and Robert Allen (Preble Shawnee) in 4:38. Kimmel dropped his final two matches, 9-1 to Jaxon Vining (Clermont NE) and 8-0 to Baden Root (Graham Local), finishing 6th and just shy of a state qualification.

### Other Competitors

Antwerp:  
Gage Clevinger, Zac Salas, Cami McAlexander, and Teagen Eaton  
Paulding:  
Landon Shartzter, Michael Clifford, Avery Cooper, Miguel Martinez, and Miracle Omonayin  
Wayne Trace:

Brandon Hire, Ben Gurney, and Karsyn Troth  
Antwerp's coach, Dustin Carnahan commented after the District tournament, "Unfortunately, they [boys team] end their seasons at the district tournament. However, we are still extremely proud of them and the season they had!! Keep up the hard work boys and your heads held high," Carnahan continues, "Congratulations to Maddilan as she becomes the 4th Archer to reach the State Tournament and 1st female! All these girls wrestled their hearts out today and we could not be more proud of them!! They showed toughness and grit all season long. We are blessed to have this opportunity and compete throughout the year! Great season Cami and Teagen! Keep climbing Maddie!"

The State competition was held March 13-15th in Columbus at the Schottenstein Center of OSU. Look for that wrap up in next week's West Bend News!

## PARKVIEW PRICES FALL FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR, NEW REPORT FROM INDIANA LEGISLATURE SHOWS

Parkview Health's commercial prices have declined for three years straight, according to the 2025 Milliman Hospital Price Benchmarking Analysis. The study was required under House Enrolled Act 1004 (2023) and issued by the Indiana Department of Insurance. It reveals that Parkview remained below Indiana's statutory 285% of Medicare benchmark in 2022, 2023 and 2024, underscoring consistent progress in lowering costs.

The Milliman report found Parkview's total contracted commercial prices were:

- 278% of Medicare in 2022
- 272% of Medicare in 2023
- 262% of Medicare in 2024

All three years remain under the state benchmark and show a steady downward trend, with 2024 falling 23 percentage points below the threshold.

"These results affirm that our long-term affordability strategy is working," said Dr. Jason Row, president, Parkview Physicians Group, and chief value transformation officer, Parkview Health.

"Perhaps more importantly, we're not slowing down. We implemented a number of new strategies to lower the total cost of care in 2025 as well and look forward to seeing these initiatives continue to make care more affordable and accessible for patients and employers."

Parkview's recent affordability initiatives include:

- Partnering with Undue Medical Debt to abolish more than \$64 million in medical debt to 34,000+ patients nationwide.
- Introducing an ER/urgent care model in Fort Wayne to ensure patients receive the most appropriate level of care – and associated cost – based on their injury/illness. A second ER/urgent care will open in Marion in 2027.
- Collaborating directly with employers to improve employee well-being and increase access to care through on-site clinics, shared clinic models and data analytics that reduce absenteeism and help identify patients' rising risks to intervene before acute care is needed.

• Further reducing rates for Parkview Signature Care EPO+, a direct to employer health plan that offers more than 25% savings compared to traditional commercial insurance options.

• Investing in ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient facilities and hybrid care delivery models to provide lower-cost options for many procedures.

• In partnership with Hyland and Butler University, hosting an innovation competition aimed at reducing costs for patients.

• Negotiating significantly reduced rates with Parkview's largest commercial payor, reflecting lower hospital rates through 2029 compared to rates in 2019.

"The state's analysis reflects the dedication of our teams who work tirelessly to innovate, streamline workflows and ensure we're providing the right care, in the right place, at the right time," Dr. Row added. "But we also understand that affordability is not a single project, it's a system-wide commitment. From reducing medical debt to expanding lower-cost care settings, we're focused on doing what's right for our patients and our communities."

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# PANTHERS' TOURNAMENT RUN ENDS IN CLOSE DISTRICT FINAL LOSS TO GENOA



Paulding was on top of the game the first three quarters of the match with the help of junior Jordan Manz as he drives in for the layup! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

**NAPOLEON** - The Paulding Panthers saw a strong postseason run come to an end Friday night as they fell to undefeated Genoa 56-51 in the OHSAA Division V District Final at Napoleon High School.

Paulding finished the season with an impressive 20-4 record after battling Genoa, who improved to 24-0 with the victory. The Panthers stayed within striking distance throughout the contest but could not overcome Genoa's late scoring and trips to the free throw line.

Xander Kuckuk led the Panthers offensively with 15 points, connecting on six field goals while also pulling down six defensive rebounds. Tyson Manz followed with 14 points, shooting 5-of-9 from the field and a perfect 3-for-3 at the free throw line. Manz also led

the team on the boards with eight rebounds.

Jalen Manz and Blake Rhonehouse each contributed seven points. Jordan Manz chipped in six points. Grady Barton rounded out the scoring with two points.

As a team, Paulding shot 18-of-42 from the field (42.9 percent) and hit 13-of-21 free throws. The Panthers collected 25 total rebounds and dished out 10 assists in the contest.

Genoa shot slightly better from the floor at 45.9 percent and took advantage of 26 free throw attempts, converting 18 to help secure the five-point victory.

Despite the loss, Paulding's district final appearance capped a successful season that included 20 wins and a deep tournament run, with the Panthers competing with

one of the state's remaining unbeaten teams to the final buzzer.

## ACPL RELEASES NEW MEMORY KITS TO ADDRESS MEMORY LOSS

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is excited to announce the release of five new themed memory kits designed to support individuals living with memory loss, Alzheimer's disease, or other cognitive challenges — and to help their families, friends, and caregivers engage in meaningful activities together. All five kits will be available for patrons to check out immediately.

Memory kits are carefully curated collections of books, music, photos, puzzles, activity prompts, and other sensory-rich materials that help spark familiar memories, encourage conversation, and create positive shared experiences. Kits are typically checked out from the library catalog just like other materials and returned after a three-week lending period.

The five new kits — available beginning March 1 — are themed to spark memories and conversations about dogs, babies, Route 66, the 1960s, and handyman projects. Memory kits like these are increasingly used by libraries nationwide to encourage engagement and connection between patrons with memory loss and their caregivers. Each kit includes helpful caregiver guides and suggested activities, making it easier for families to use the materials at home.

Kelsey Kreger, the ACPL's Library at Home Outreach Specialist, said when picking the themes for the memory kits, the goal was to expand on topics not already included in the library's current catalog of memory kits.

"Our new memory kits are designed with both individuals experiencing memory issues and their caregivers in mind," said Kreger. "Whether it's travel memories, hobbies and skills they once enjoyed, or reminiscing about their early parenting experiences, we hope that our patrons use the kits to reconnect with their past, engage with their caregivers, or even just add a little more joy in their day."

Patrons with a valid library card can place a hold on memory kits through the online catalog or request them at any library branch. Kits check out for a three-week lending period with the option to renew if no holds are pending.

For more information about the new memory kits or resources for caregivers and loved ones, contact the ACPL's Library at Home team at (260) 421-1237 or [lah@acpl.info](mailto:lah@acpl.info).

## OPSMA 2025-26 NORTHWEST DISTRICT BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS

**FINDLAY** — As selected by a panel of media members for the Ohio Prep Sports-writers Media Association.

### DIVISION V

**FIRST TEAM:** Julian Washington, Castalia Margaretta, 6-4, sr., 24.4; Walter Plantz, Genoa Area, 6-8, sr., 22.4; Jaxson Hall, Willard, 6-3, so., 21.5; Lincoln Holler, Findlay Liberty-Benton, 6-6, sr., 18.7; Blake Rhonehouse, Paulding, 6-1, sr., 15.3; Judah Keller, Castalia Margaretta, 6-0, sr., 13.2; Ryan Routson, Genoa Area, 5-7, sr., 13.4.

**PLAYERS OF THE YEAR:** Julian Washington, Castalia Margaretta; Walter Plantz, Genoa Area.

**COACHES OF THE YEAR:** Jon Sandwisch, Genoa Area; Greg Badenhop, Liberty Center.

**SECOND TEAM:** Jack Badenhop, Liberty Center, 6-4, fr., 14.4; Reid Irwin, Findlay Liberty-Benton, 6-1, sr., 8.7; Cole Leimeister, Milan Edison, 5-10, sr., 20.5; Quentin Conway, Huron, 6-1, sr., 15.9; Brayden Luidhardt, Pemberville Eastwood, 6-2, so., 17.6; Zach Hallett, Oak Harbor, 6-1, jr., 15.0; Tyson Manz, Paulding, 6-6, so., 15.1; Landon Knapke, Coldwater, 6-1, sr., 12.9.

**THIRD TEAM:** Collyn Meagrow, Milan Edison, 6-4, sr., 18.1; Alex York, Delta, 6-1, sr., 15.2; Wyatt Gericke, Archbold, 6-3, so., 12.6; Xander Kuckuck, Paulding, 6-3,

*(Continued on Page 11)*

# BLUFFTON TIGERS DEFEAT WOODLAN IN SECTIONAL SEMIFINAL



Woodlan Junior Keaton Delagrange is sent to the line after being fouled and scores this shot for the Warriors. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

**BLUFFTON** - The Bluffton Tigers advanced in the IHSAA boys basketball tournament Friday night with a 49-39 victory over the Woodlan Warriors in a sectional semifinal game at Bluffton High School.

In the first half, the Warriors were blazing as they squared up against the Bluffton Tigers ending the first quarter, 4-4. Then going into half-time, Woodlan still contained the lead, 18-14.

Bluffton built momentum in the third gaining 16 points to Woodlan's 7 pulling the Tigers ahead 30-25. The Tigers closed out the game in the fourth to secure the victory.

Top scorers for the Warriors were Ashtin Jacquay with 13, CJ Bullock with 8, Camden Brooks and Alex Art both chipped in 5 points, and Keaton Delagrange grabbed 4 points.

With this loss, Woodlan ends their season.

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# THE LEFT TURN



Great Lakes Super Sprints will return to I-96 Speedway. Jim DenHamer Photo Credit.

**By: Ron Burt**

This is part #2 of a three week series of tri-state race-tracks that run weekly shows. Before you leave for an event always go online to the track's web or Facebook page and make sure they're racing the night you're planning to attend.

Montpelier Speedway in Montpelier Indiana is run by the Milkman, and he has worked hard to make this speedway good for the drivers and fans. Sometimes it takes a former driver to see things promoters and owners don't.

Opening date for 2026 is Saturday, April 11th, and the track will stay open until October 24th and the Annual Monster Mash. There will be a special Tuesday night show on July 7th and a couple of Friday night shows. This dirt track draws cars from Ohio and Indiana for normal Saturday shows. You will see cars from Limaland, Eldora, Oakshade and the old Gas City I-69 Speedway competing against Montpelier's hometown favorites. Dirt UMP Modifieds, Super Stocks, Street Stocks and Hornets normally run every Saturday night. During the

summer almost every race night, the Milkman brings in a class or racing series to headline the evening, BOSS Sprints, The Iron Man Super Late Models, USAC Thunder Midgets and the Great Lakes Super Sprints.

Do you like stock cars? April to September Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon Ohio is where the fastest meet to race and has some of the best side by side stock car racing in the tri-state. Weekly shows feature UMP Dirt Late Models, Late Model Sportsmen, Dominator Stocks and Sport Compacts. Once a year Modifieds come to Oakshade Raceway with the Late Model Hell Tour. The 3/8th mile dirt track hasn't posted their 2026 schedule, but they have 3 races annually that draw drivers and fans from throughout the Midwest, the Barney Oldfield Race, Annual Birthday Race, and the Papa Boiler Super Stock Spectacular.

Locally when the weather looks bad, some of the area drivers and fans head north to Michigan. Hartford Speedway will open for racing Friday, May 8th and will end the year Saturday, September 19th.

They run a couple of different types of stock car classes but bring in the Great Lakes Sprints, Non-Wing Sprints, World of Outlaws, Late Models and other classes to headline their weekly shows.

I-96 Speedway is in Lake Odessa Michigan and runs lots of Friday nights. This speedway is very driver and fan friendly and works hard to build those relationships. Car counts and fan attendance keep growing. Opening night is Friday, April 24th and the season will end August 28th. UMP Late Models, IMCA Modifieds, Street Stocks and Compacts are the regular nightly show, but they also bring in National Series for Late Models, All Star Circuit of Champions for the 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints. The Great Lake Super Sprints and Non-Winged Sprints make several appearances during the season. This track spoils the race fans with a good variety of events.

Plymouth Motor Speedway is a semi banked paved track 30 minutes west of Fort Wayne. This is another speedway that likes to run on Friday nights and they have good car counts and a strong fan base. Race nights feature Outlaw Late Models,

Street Stocks, Factory Fords/Crown Vics, Four Cylinders and Hornets. This summer the track will bring in the Outlaw 350 Super Modifieds and the All Star National Pavement Midget Series. The gates swing open Friday, April 24th and end the season September 12th.

Next week I'll wrap this 3 part series up with a few speedways that run special limited schedules but all big events paying out enough in winnings to attract race teams from all over the country. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/.

# OFF STAGE PRODUCTIONS ANNOUNCES CAST OF SPRING COMEDY: "INSANE WITH POWER"



Cast of "Insane with Power is shown above: (front, l-r) Emily Smith, Aimey Lehman, and Alea Rex; (back, l-r) Daniel Sanderson (Director), SlimPickens419, Nick Long, and Spencer Wenninger.

Off Stage Productions is proud to announce the cast and crew for "Insane with Power" by Scott Hahn. The cast is as follows:

Lois Lancaster - Emily Smith; Speed Freak - Spencer Wenninger; Dim Bulb - Nick Long; Mental - Aimey Lehman; Kevin Bendis - SlimPickens419; Dr. Gail Eisner - Alea Rex; DIRECTOR: Daniel Sanderson; COSTUMER: Julie Lang

SYNOPSIS: Lois Lancaster is a big-city journalist writing about the current state of mental health facilities. Her research takes her to a hospital populated with a unique group of quirky inmates who imagine they are crime-fighting superheroes. Speed Freak thinks he can run at incredible speeds, while Dim Bulb, the most enthusiastic person on the face of the earth, thinks he has the ability to turn off lights with his brain. Mental

thinks she can read minds, despite being prone to sudden outbursts of bizarre non-sequiturs. Kevin, much less quirky and flamboyant than the other inmates, doesn't embarrass himself with a ridiculous code name or costume..at least, not initially. Dr. Gail Eisner appears to be a kindly hospital administrator; a steady influence needed to effectively run a madhouse like this one. At first Lois finds their elaborate superhero fantasies to be an entertaining diversion, the wild delusions of unstable minds, until something unusual happens that makes her wonder ...

All shows will be in the Commons at Vantage Career

Center, 818 N. Franklin Street in Van Wert, Ohio. Enter Door 13 off the back parking lot where plenty of parking spaces are available.

Reservations for Members open Monday, March 30, 2026. Reservations for the General Public open Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Call the box office number 419-605-6708 on or after these days to reserve your tables and seats! Box Office Hours: Monday through Saturday - Noon until 6:00 p.m. No Sunday calls please. All shows require reservations, please, so we may be certain of the amount of food or popcorn needed for that evening. Thank you!

Friday shows are "Popcorn

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Nights". Saturday evening and Sunday matinee shows are Dinner Theatre.

Show dates will be: April 17, 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26.

Friday doors open at 7:00 p.m., show starts at 7:30 p.m. Saturday doors open 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m., show 7:30 p.m. Sunday doors open 12:30 p.m., dinner at 1:00 p.m., and show at 2:00 p.m.

### ANTWERP COUNCIL MEETING DISCUSSES WATER BREAKS AND OTHER IMPORTANT ITEMS

ANTWERP — Antwerp Village Council met Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Bryan Smith presiding. Council members present were Jason Franks, Bill Boylan, Derek Demongeot, Dean Rister, John Ganger and John DeVore III. Council approved the February regular meeting minutes and the February month-end financial report.

During discussion of EMS matters, council noted that

after meeting with Ashley, EMS reports will now be submitted three times per year instead of monthly. Officials said the change was based on the flow of information and the time required to prepare the report. They added that once new software is in place, the report could potentially return to a monthly format.

In his administrative report, Village Administrator Brian Davis said the village's WSLRA grant funding application for the water treatment plant had been filed that day through Jones and Henry. He said he did not yet know the timeline for a response, but because the grant window opened later than last year, notification may not come until July.

Davis also addressed the recent boil advisory, calling it an inconvenience for residents but noting that the mechanical failure helped document the urgency of the village's water system needs. He said information discovered during the failure was included in the village's grant

submission and may improve Antwerp's chances of receiving grant funding rather than only loan funding. Davis thanked village employees for their long hours and hard work in correcting the problem and keeping officials updated.

Council then heard committee reports. The Public Service Committee reported on its Feb. 23 meeting, which included committee members, Mayor Smith, Gabe Oberlin and Mark Greenwood, with Bill Boylan also present. Discussion focused on the Bell Street development. Committee members said they were comfortable with a 20-foot road width, which they believed is consistent with most village streets other than state routes and Maumee Landing. Oberlin was advised he would need to apply for a variance. Funding opportunities were also discussed. Davis said he had attempted to assist with USDA-related funding, but federal changes and program requirements meant the project did not qualify under the available guidelines. He said Oberlin continues to explore other funding options, including through Maumee Valley Planning.

The Personnel and Finance Committee also met Feb. 23 and reviewed the zoning inspector position. Committee members recommended that the village pay for two required certifications for the position — zoning inspector and property maintenance and housing — and then provide a \$300 bonus for each passed exam while keeping the existing salary level unchanged. Council members discussed requiring the employee to remain with the village for a set period after training or repay the cost. A three-year commitment was mentioned during discussion, though no formal action was taken. Officials said the position needs to be filled as development activity in the village increases.

During the fiscal officer's report, council approved on third reading Resolution 2026-01 setting permanent appropriations for 2026. Council also approved Resolution 2026-02 authorizing the administrator to make an expenditure in excess of \$75,000 for sanitary sewer system engineering. Those agenda items matched the posted agenda for the meeting.

Council also approved Resolution 2026-03 transferring \$100,000 from the general fund to the police fund, Resolution 2026-04 transferring \$10,000 from the general fund to the street lighting fund, Resolution 2026-05 transferring \$250,000 from the general fund to the sewer operating fund, and Resolution 2026-06 transferring \$30,000 from the general fund to the fire equipment and maintenance fund.

Council then suspended the three-reading rule and approved Resolution 2026-08 as an emergency measure authorizing the village administrator to take action necessary to process the village's receipt of the Residential Economic Development District grant awarded by the State of Ohio. Council also suspended the rules and approved Resolution 2026-09 as an emergency measure au-

thorizing the village administrator to enter into a first addendum to the agreement for the collection, transportation and disposal of residential solid waste within the village. Both emergency readings were listed on the agenda.

Under old business, council received an update on the military banner project. Council members were given information sheets and a QR code signup form to review. Officials said the form includes steps for photo submission, verification and payment, and that local partners have worked to make the process as complete as possible. The project is being coordinated through community cooperation rather than direct village administration, but council was asked for its blessing to move forward. Officials said there has already been strong interest, with hopes of having banners in place by Memorial Day.

Council also revisited park rules and concerns related to larger events at the park. Officials said the village's existing park rules need to be clearly available to the public and consistently enforced. Discussion again centered on liability concerns, especially involving alcohol, fireworks and other activities not covered by the village's insurance. Council members noted that the current park rules are available on the village website under the 2019 ordinance.

In new business, Dean Rister raised the possibility of improving parking around the EMS and fire department buildings. He said emergency personnel need designated parking, especially during downtown events and increased activity near the theater, VFW and Bourbon Street area. He suggested paving or concrete work in grassy areas around the buildings to create emergency personnel parking spots, along with signs that would make the spaces enforceable as tow-away zones. Officials said the idea is still in the discussion stage and would require pricing and further review.

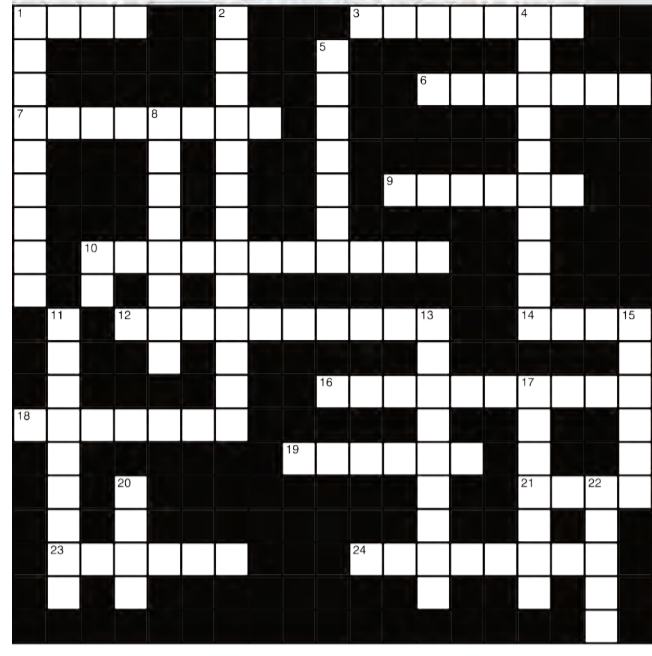
Council also discussed a proposal expected to come before council in April involving a possible community garden on the empty lot at the corner of State Route 49. Jason Franks said Austin Bowers plans to appear at the next meeting to discuss the idea. Council members raised questions about maintenance, water access and whether the location is practical.

Additional discussion was held on future village improvements, including landscaping near the former house site at the corner, sidewalk connectivity and whether some of the village's marijuana dispensary revenue should be directed toward sidewalk or related improvement projects. Fiscal Officer Kevin Hornish cautioned against creating a restricted special fund unless council was certain of its long-term purpose, noting it is easier to allocate money from the general fund than to release money once it is placed into a dedicated fund.

In the mayor's report, Mayor Smith thanked village workers Curtis, Jeremy and Chris, along with Davis and Tiffany, for their efforts during the recent water system issues and boil advisory, say-

## WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle

GARDENING 101



**Across**

1. Tool used to break up soil clumps
3. Seedling container made of compressed peat
6. Trimming plants to encourage healthy growth.
7. Removing excess seedlings to give others space to grow.
9. Tool used to loosen soil before planting
10. Producing new plants from seeds or cuttings.
12. Substance added to soil to supply nutrients.
14. Soil mixture of sand, silt, and clay ideal for gardening.
16. Artificial watering of plants.
18. Removing unwanted plants from a garden.
19. Garden tool with a long handle and pointed blade
21. Spring soil amendment made from ground limestone
23. A plant that completes its life cycle in one growing season.

24. A plant that completes its life cycle in two years.

**Down**

1. Condition where roots outgrow their container.
2. Moving a plant from one location to another.
4. Plant grown for decorative foliage or flowers
5. Organic material added to enrich garden soil
8. Nutrient essential for leafy growth
10. Measure of soil acidity or alkalinity.
11. A plant that returns year after year.
13. Elevated planting area for improved drainage.
15. Natural fertilizer made from decomposed animal waste
17. Structure used to support climbing plants.
20. Climate classification used to determine plant suitability.
22. Protective layer placed over soil to retain moisture

solution on page 11

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ing the matter was handled well and communicated clearly. He also recognized Antwerp Boy Scout Troop 143 for helping clean up the park.

Smith reported that the village has begun receiving marijuana dispensary revenue payments totaling \$15,918.74 so far, with recent monthly payments averaging between about \$2,500 and \$2,900.

Mayor's court revenues for the month totaled \$2,100, with \$1,641 going to the vil-

lage, \$444 to the state and \$15 to the county.

Before adjournment, Smith said the Antwerp Chamber had asked whether the village wants to participate in activities related to America's upcoming 250th anniversary. He noted that Day in the Park is reportedly planning to use that theme and said council could consider whether the village wants to do anything additional.

With no further business, council adjourned.

### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, Plaintiff

vs.

JAMES R. NATION, JR., ET AL., DEFENDANTS,

Case No. CI-26-037

Judge Tiffany R. Beckman

TO: James R. Nation, Jr. and Elissa A. Nation

Last Known Address: 307 E. Wayne Street, Grover Hill, Ohio 45849

Please take notice that a complaint has been filed in the above-captioned action against you seeking a foreclosure of tax liens and a public sale of real property owned by James R. Nation, Jr. and Elissa A. Nation, recorded in Volume 568 Page 0963 of the Paulding County Records, to pay delinquent real estate taxes owed on said real estate.

The real property in question is situated as follows:

Auditor's Parcel: #26-06S-012-00 / 26-06S-011-00  
Property Address: 307 E. Wayne Street, Grover Hill, Ohio 45849

PAULDING COUNTY  
SARAH JO HARPEL  
CLERK OF COURTS

2026 MAR 12 AM 9:24

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

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

By: *[Signature]*  
Deputy

Respectfully submitted,

*[Signature]*  
Matthew A. Miller  
Matthew A. Miller, (#0081292)  
Acting Prosecuting Attorney  
Paulding County, Ohio  
120 S. Walnut Street  
Paulding, Ohio 45879  
419-399-8270

## The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

The Paulding County Veteran's Service Office is dedicated to aiding Paulding County veterans and their families in time of need.

**There are two basic services the agency provides:**

- 1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.
- 2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

*We also provide reimbursement for the cost of transportation to VA medical facilities in our area, or in the case where the veteran cannot drive himself, we will provide a driver.*

**Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**  
**Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments**  
**Any questions, please call 419-399-8285**

## ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153  
**Citizens National Bank of Bluffton, Plaintiff,**  
**vs.**  
**Dovetail Development, Ltd, ET AL., Defendants,**  
Case No. CI 22 109  
Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:  
**209 W. Harrison St, Paulding,**  
**Parcel Number: 30-24S-103-00 & 30-24S-104-00**  
A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: [www.uslandrecords.com](http://www.uslandrecords.com)  
Said premises appraised at Forty-eight Thousand and No/100 (\$48,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.  
The first sale date will be on the April 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:  
<https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>  
**Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.**  
In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on April 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.  
The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.  
Purchasers 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.  
**TERMS OF SALE:** A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.  
The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.  
Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.  
Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.pauldingohsheriff.com](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)  
Joshua A. Koltak, Attorney for Plaintiff

# ARTHUR LAW FIRM SUPPORTS DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA WITH \$3,500 SILVER SPONSORSHIP



2026 Gala Silver Sponsor Arthur Law Firm Co. L.P.A.

The Defiance Area Foundation wants to thank Arthur Law Firm LLC for its \$3,500 commitment as a Silver Sponsor for the upcoming Gala on October 3, 2026. Silver sponsorships play a key role in advancing the Foundation's mis-

sion and supporting nonprofit organizations serving Defiance County.

Pictured above are (L to R) Dan Michel - Arthur Law Firm Partner and Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

**Robert L. Adams** of Paulding, Ohio, had a charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension dismissed. In a related case, Adams entered a no contest plea and was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Edith Barrios Victoria** of Paulding, Ohio, had a charge of operating a vehicle without an operator's license dismissed. In a related case, she entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Barbara L. Konopka** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Carson L. Neal** of Hebron, Kentucky, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Arin T. Allison** of Toledo, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

**Arteaga C. Mariano** of O'Neill, Nebraska, was convicted of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

**John A. Decker** of Leipsic, Ohio, was convicted of hunting without a deer permit. He was fined \$183 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs.

**Dustin M. Davis** of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**Latonya Merriweather** of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She

was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Benjamin D. Parks** of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Benjamin M. Teague** of Churubusco, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**Jared Sherry** (12/28/1995), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Possession of Cocaine, F5

**Melinda Gonzales** (09/05/1984), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on two counts of Theft, F5; and one count of Forgery, F5

**Nicholas J. Sholl** (10/06/1985), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Domestic Violence, F4

**Joseph-Richard Sherry** (12/28/1995), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Possession of Cocaine, F5

**Melinda Gonzales** (09/05/1984), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on two counts of Theft, F5; and one count of Forgery, F5

**Nicholas J. Sholl** (10/06/1985), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Domestic Violence, F4

**Joseph-Richard Sherry** (12/28/1995), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Possession of Cocaine, F5

**Melinda Gonzales** (09/05/1984), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on two counts of Theft, F5; and one count of Forgery, F5

**Nicholas J. Sholl** (10/06/1985), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Domestic Violence, F4

was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Benjamin D. Parks** of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Benjamin M. Teague** of Churubusco, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

## PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew A. Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (3) persons on Thursday, March 12, 2026

**Jared Sherry** (12/28/1995), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Possession of Cocaine, F5

**Melinda Gonzales** (09/05/1984), Paulding, Ohio, was indicted on two counts of Theft, F5; and one count of Forgery, F5

**Nicholas J. Sholl** (10/06/1985), Antwerp, Ohio, was indicted on one count of Domestic Violence, F4

## ANTWERP POLICE REPORT



On February 17 an officer stopped a vehicle at the intersection of Erie and Canal Streets after the driver failed to make a complete stop at a stop sign. The driver was cited for failure to stop and driving under suspension. Suspected drugs were also located in the vehicle and sent to the BCI crime lab for testing.

On February 20 police were requested to conduct a welfare check on a resident of North Main Street. The officer responded and determined the individual was fine. Later that day, officers responded to a motor vehicle accident on Victory Lane and prepared an accident report.

On February 23 an officer stopped a vehicle for traveling 50 mph in a 35 mph zone. The driver was cited for speeding and driving under suspension.

On February 24 a domestic dispute was reported at a residence in the village. The officer responded, investigated the situation, and forwarded a report to the prosecutor's office.

On February 25 a resident of Erie Street reported individuals going door-to-door attempting to make sales. An officer responded to the area but was unable to locate the individuals.

On February 27 an officer with the Antwerp Police Department arrested an individual on a warrant from Williams County for vehicular homicide; Police were also contacted regarding a medical emergency at the Sunoco station. The officer responded and contacted Antwerp EMS. On the same day, officers responded to a domestic violence call at a residence on North Main Street. The case was investigated and a felony warrant was issued for one individual's arrest.

On March 1 a resident requested assistance unlocking a vehicle. An officer responded to a residence on Canal Street and unlocked the vehicle.

# NAPOLEONIC WAR GARRISON AT OLD FORT WAYNE



A Napoleonic War Garrison is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026, 9a.m. - 5p.m. at The Old Fort on Spy Run Avenue. This garrison event aims to recreate the life of a soldier during the desperate final chapters of Napoleon's empire.

As you walk through the gates of The Old Fort, you will find yourself immersed in life as a newly enlisted soldier. Reenactors will spend the day in military drills in preparation for a struggle with a larger and more experienced British force.

The day also includes daily duties and work details. Families and history enthusiasts can explore the buildings of the fort and interact with the reenactors and civilians.

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

Admission to the event is free, with the option of free will donations. Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving the rich heritage of Fort Wayne.

As a volunteer-driven organization, it relies heavily on community support and donations to continue its mission of education and preservation.

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

Admission to the event is free, with the option of free

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

Admission to the event is free, with the option of free

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

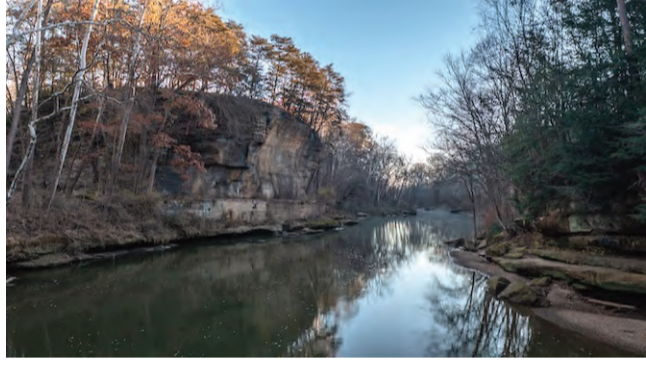
## DPLS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET MARCH 17

The Finance Committee of

the Defiance Public Library System Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, beginning at 1 p.m. at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort Street, Defiance, OH, in the Nellie Gary Reading Room to review the February financial reports.

Meetings of the board and its committees are open to the public.

## ODNR AMERICA 250 EVENT FEATURES HISTORICAL MARKER UNVEILING AND EARLY SPRING WILDFLOWERS



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) invites you to celebrate the Licking County region's rich natural and cultural history at Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve on Saturday, March 21. Hosted by ODNR's Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, the family-friendly event features the unveiling of a new ODNR historical marker, wildflower ramble, local historical interpreters, and exhibits.

ODNR's America 250 event will take place Saturday, March 21 at Blackhand Gorge State Nature Preserve.

"The Blackhand Gorge area has played a significant role in shaping the natural and cultural history of the region for centuries," said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. "From indigenous peoples and European settlers to modern visitors, this fantastic place has drawn us to explore its unique geologic features by foot or by paddle."

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**RAVI V. BELLAMKONDA APPOINTED 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

He oversaw the deans of all 15 colleges at Ohio State, four regional campuses and University Libraries, working regularly with University Senate and additional shared governance bodies. That work and the momentum that it has helped build for the university in terms of academic excellence, Bellamkonda said, will continue to be the priority.

"Ohio State is a nation-leading academic powerhouse," Bellamkonda said. "I understood very early on in my tenure as provost that this is a special place. Because of our teaching, scholarship and research, our scope and incredible reach, and the passion and commitment of our people and Buckeyes everywhere, we can do things other universities in this country, and around the world, simply cannot do.

"And as we look to the future, the university has a bold vision to further build that excellence at scale — with talented teams that execute at the highest levels across academics, student service, research, life-changing patient care and athletics. When we have excellence at scale, we create impact that is transformative. This is why what we do at Ohio State matters."

At Emory, Bellamkonda launched and led several major initiatives, including faculty recruitment and retention efforts focused on arts and humanistic inquiry, and artificial intelligence in areas such as medicine, business, law and more. He helped lead the Student Flourishing initiative, which included curricular innovations, and the Emory Purpose Project focused on well-being and ethics.

As the engineering dean at Duke, he played a key role in launching two interdisciplinary institutes: the Duke Quantum Center and the Center for Advanced Genomic Technologies. Also during his tenure, annual extramural research increased from \$68 million to more than \$100 million each year while the Wilkinson Engineering Building was designed and built.

Bellamkonda also previously served as the Wallace H. Coulter Professor and chair of the joint Department of Biomedical Engineering shared between Georgia Institute of Technology and Emory University. He also served as associate vice president for research at Georgia Tech.

His appointment as Ohio State's provost marked a return to Ohio as he began his career at Case Western Reserve University, where he served as an assistant and associate professor, and associate chair for graduate education.

Bellamkonda has a bachelor's degree in engineering from Osmania University, and he is an internationally renowned biomedical researcher whose lab has invented novel approaches to treat pediatric and adult brain tumors. He won numerous honors from professional societies in biomedical engineering and biomaterials. Bellamkonda served as president of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering from 2014 to 2016.

In 2021, he received a National Institutes of Health Director's Transformative Research Award for his work, supported by the National Cancer Institute. The tumor

The Ohio State University Board of Trustees today appointed Ravi V. Bellamkonda as the 18th president in university history, effective immediately.

Bellamkonda, who trained as a bioengineer and neuroscientist through a PhD at Brown University and a post-doctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has served as Ohio State's executive vice president and provost since January 14, 2025. Previously, he served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University and the Vinik Dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke University.

In his role as Ohio State provost, the university's chief academic officer, Bellamkonda led a university-wide portfolio of programs and initiatives in the Office of Academic Affairs and Enterprise for Research, Innovation and Knowledge that support innovative and lifesaving research as well as faculty and student success in Columbus and on campuses across the state.

He played an integral role in crafting and leading early phases of the Education for Citizenship 2035 strategic plan through its core academic excellence initiatives aimed at enhancing student success, investing in faculty and strong programs, and advancing Ohio State's leadership in artificial intelligence. Under his leadership, the university launched AI Fluency, a bold initiative to integrate AI into the undergraduate experience; a new Career Center of Excellence designed to better connect students with internships, jobs and success after graduation; and faculty hiring programs that are attracting top scholars to the university.

"Dr. Bellamkonda is well positioned to lead this institution at a time when Ohio State continues to see record achievements both in terms of student success and impact in the many communities we serve," said John W. Zeiger, chair of the university's Board of Trustees. "Throughout his career in higher education, including his time at Ohio State, Ravi has proven to be an innovator as well as someone who cares for and builds trust with faculty, staff and students through collaboration and consensus-building.

"We are pleased to welcome him to his new role as Ohio State's 18th president." As a member of President's Cabinet, Bellamkonda has worked closely with leaders of the Wexner Medical Center and Athletics, as well as administrative units including the offices of Administration and Planning, Student Life, Human Resources, External Affairs and Business and Finance.

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monorail device developed in his lab has been recognized as a breakthrough technology by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He is the scientific founder of Exvade Bioscience, a startup that is pioneering first-in-human trials for the tumor monorail device. In December 2025, the first patients were enrolled in a Phase 1 clinical trial to evaluate the device, designed to safely monitor recurrent glioblastoma.

Additionally, Bellamkonda is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering; and Society For Biomaterials; as well as an elected senior member of the National Academy of Inventors. He has been awarded 11 U.S. patents.

"We warmly welcome the appointment of Ravi Bellamkonda as Ohio State's next president," said University Senate Secretary Jared Gardner and Faculty Council Chair Valerie Williams in a joint statement.

"Working closely with him in his role as executive vice president and provost, we have seen firsthand his deep commitment to the academic mission of this university and to engaging with our shared governance structures and with our faculty, staff and student leaders."

Added faculty representatives to the Board of Trustees Phillip Popovich and Eric Bielefeld: "We have been inspired by the vision and energy that Dr. Bellamkonda has brought to Ohio State as provost, and we are confident that he will bring those same qualities to the presidency. We look forward to continuing to work with him on behalf of the university and the state of Ohio."

Bellamkonda and his wife, Dr. Lalita Kaligotla, clinical associate professor and senior director of leadership, policy engagement and innovation in the College of Nursing, are the proud parents of two adult children and C.J. the golden-doodle.

"Our family has found a

sr., 15.5; Will Sensabaugh, Spencerville, 5-11, jr., 19.9; Max Hammons, Van Wert Lincolnview, 5-9, jr., 17.8; Reece Walby, Gibsonburg, 5-11, jr., 18.2; Kee'Ran Stokes, Maumee Valley Country Day, 5-10, jr., 21.2; Karter Goon, Ashland Crestview, 6-2, sr., 18.0; Quinten Eisel, Metamora Evergreen, 6-3, sr., 15.5.

**PLAYERS OF THE YEAR:** Brayden Holt, North Robinson Colonel Crawford; Jordan Priddy, Lima Central Catholic; Mack Hieber, Hamler Patrick Henry.

**COACHES OF THE YEAR:** Mark Bunn, Van Buren; Kurt Goettmoeller, Maria Stein Marion Local; Tony Egbert, Gibsonburg.

**SECOND TEAM:** Austin Zimmerman, St. Henry, so., 10.6; Trevon Baxter, Columbus Grove, 6-1, sr. 13.8; Kale Ahrens, Maria Stein Marion Local, 6-3, jr., 12.5; Dane Ewers, Defiance Ayersville, 6-4, so., 20.4; Jeybrehm Price, Maumee Valley Country Day, 6-5, jr., 15.2; Luke Mason, Attica Seneca East, 5-9, sr., 17.0; Drew Stanek, Bucyrus Wynford, 6-3, so., 19.2; Ashton Miller, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon, 6-3, jr., 16.4; Zack Zimmerman, Ada, 6-3, sr., 15.4; Cole Bishop, Van Buren, 5-10, sr., 8.8; Carson Slates, Elmore Woodmore, 5-9, sr., 18.2; Jeremiah Peake, Defiance Ayersville, 6-2, jr., 16.2.

**THIRD TEAM:** Owen Traxler, Bloomdale Elmwood, 5-11, jr., 14.5; Owen Sensabaugh, Spencerville, 5-11, sr., 12.0; Aiden Morant, Gibsonburg, 6-2, sr., 14.5; Jack Huelsman, St. Henry, 6-0, sr., 10.1; Henry Thomas, New London, 5-10, fr., 15.1; Chase Stone, Carey, 6-5, sr., 11.5; Levi Panico, Sherwood Fairview, 6-4, sr., 11.0; Will Rampe, Van Buren, 6-3, sr., 9.7; King Beard, Kansas Lakota, 6-6, sr., 14.0; Lance Maenle, Haviland Wayne Trace, 6-2, sr., 13.1; John DeGray, North Robinson Colonel Crawford, 6-3, jr., 8.4; Hayden Perrott, Convoy Crestview, 6-0, sr., 15.9.

**HONORABLE MENTION:** Daniel Wells, Ashland Crestview; Josiah Schleusener, Mansfield Christian; Jaxson Schaffer, New London; Hunter Wasserman, Gibsonburg; Drew Spoerr, Ashland Crestview; Will Ruetz, Metamora Evergreen; Josh Lieb, Defiance Tinora; George Al-

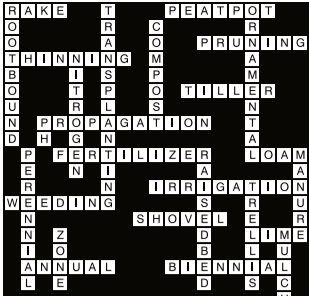


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**Crossword solution from page 9**

lendorf, Metamora Evergreen; Troy Manz, Metamora Evergreen; Kellen Frankart, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon; Avery Shilling, Kansas Lakota; Will Sheets, Convoy Crestview; Keagan Jones, Harrod Allen East; Landon Best, Columbus Grove; Brady Basinger, Columbus Grove; Brady Parker, Lima Central Catholic; Gavin Evans, Van Wert Lincolnview; Amir Warner, Lima Perry; Sae Robinson, Maumee Valley Country Day; Grant Kremer, Maria Stein Marion Local; Dylan Coppler, Bucyrus; Charlie Randall, Bucyrus; Parker Weithman, North Robinson Colonel Crawford; Peyton Baker, North Robinson Colonel Crawford; Reed Johnson, Bucyrus Wynford; Ethan Pond, Rockford Parkway; Gavin Quellhorst, New Bremen; Gavin Dicke, New Bremen; Josiah Michalski, Toledo Christian; Nasir Wilson, Maumee Valley Country Day; Nick Elchert, Kansas Lakota; Levi Tiell, Sycamore Mohawk; Collin Smith, Bascom Hopewell-Loudon; Jaron Depinet, Attica Seneca East; Carter Clemens, Haviland Wayne Trace; Tanner Laukhuf, Haviland Wayne Trace; Finn Martin, Van Buren; Carson Conley, Ada; Kayleb Hickman, Ada; Brayden Kitzler, Carey; Kyler Boes, Carey; Grant Inbody, Mount Blanchard Riverdale; Alex Homan, Van Buren.

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## THE COMMUNITY BAKES FOR THE CARING & SHARING SWEET SHOP FUNDRAISER



More than 100 Paulding County bakers and makers are donating homemade goodies for the 2026 Sweet Shop, which will benefit the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry! The event will be at the **St. Paul Lutheran Church, 601 Flat Rock Drive in Paulding from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on March 26th.** Cash and checks will be accepted. Also, card payments can be made online at the event.

The Sweet Shop will feature an array of pies, yeast and sourdough breads, cinnamon rolls, cupcakes, cakes, chocolates and other candy, 30 types of cookies, snack mixes and more.

The following cottage bakers and bakeries are supporting the fundraiser by donating this year: Bean Creek Farms, Ciara's Cookie Corner, Farmer's Wife Cupcakes,

Flour Baking Co., Grounded Coffee & Crumbs, Humble Heck Bakery, K&H Sweets, Kuntry Kakers, Mama Moos, Mom & Son's Bakery, Paulding County Senior Center, Paulding Exempted Village High School Nutrition and Wellness class, Sandy's Cakes, Setser's Sourdough, Simply from Scratch, Sweet A.S. Cakes, and The Pink Flamingo Bakery.

The money raised from the event will go to the general operating budget for the pantry which will help to pay ongoing expenses, including



buying food.

The Caring & Sharing Food Pantry's purpose is to support Paulding County residents who are experiencing food insecurity. They are run entirely on donations of food and financial support from the local communities.

For more information about the pantry, volunteering opportunities and fundraising activities, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook. If you have questions about the event, please call the pantry, at (419) 399-9562 or send an email to [info@care-sharepantry.org](mailto:info@care-sharepantry.org).

### "ONCE UPON A MARKET" INDIE AUTHOR & BOOK BAZAAR COMING TO VAN WERT IN 2027

The Van Wert County Fairgrounds and Agricultural Society is proud to announce an exciting new event coming in 2027 in partnership with the Brumback Library.

Mark your calendars for April 24, 2027, and join us for the Once Upon a Market Indie Author & Book Bazaar, to be held in the Jr. Fair Building at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds.

This brand-new event will bring together families, book lovers, and authors for a unique literary marketplace experience. Attendees can explore a variety of independent authors, book-themed vendors, and literary-inspired goods — all in a welcoming, community-focused atmosphere designed to celebrate storytelling and creativity.

Vendor applications are now being accepted. Authors, book-themed creators, and

literary vendors interested in participating can visit [vanwertcountyfair.com](http://vanwertcountyfair.com) for more information and to apply.

Additional details regarding event activities, featured authors, and attendance information will be announced soon. Be sure to follow along and stay tuned for updates as we build an unforgettable day for readers of all ages.

We look forward to welcoming the community to this exciting new event at the Van Wert County Fairgrounds.

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

### PARKVIEW REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER RECEIVES COMMITMENT TO QUALITY AWARD FROM AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION

Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) was recently recognized with the Commitment to Quality Award from the American Heart Association (AHA) for its commitment to improving patient outcomes.

PRMC was also separately awarded the Gold Plus award for AFib treatment and Silver Plus award for heart failure care through the AHA's Get With The Guidelines® (GWTG) program.

"Parkview is proud to be recognized by the American Heart Association for our commitment to providing high-quality care to our patients," said Dr. Roy Robertson, president, Parkview Heart Institute, and physician executive, specialty service lines. "At Parkview, our providers stay current with evidence-based best practices in cardiovascular care, which

### MAUMEE VALLEY NETWORK HONORS ROBERT "BOB" AGLER AS FEBRUARY FLAG OF HONOR RECIPIENT



Pictured above is Anthony Bergman of Lee Kinstle Sales & Service, presenting Bob with his new American flag.

Maumee Valley Network is proud to announce that Robert "Bob" Agler of Van Wert has been named the February recipient of the MVN Flag of Honor.

Bob was nominated by Isabel Riley in recognition of his lifelong service and dedication to others. A Vietnam veteran and past commander of V.F.W. Post 5803, Bob has devoted countless hours to volunteer work at the post and has made a lasting impact by helping fellow veterans in the community.

The MVN Flag of Honor recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding service, patriotism, and commitment to their community. Bob's continued support of veterans and his years of ser-

vice made him a deserving choice for this honor.

"Bob represents the kind of quiet strength, sacrifice, and community spirit that the Flag of Honor was created to recognize," said Maumee Valley Network. "We are honored to celebrate his service to our country and his continued dedication to those around him."

The MVN Flag of Honor is presented by Maumee Valley Network, sponsored by Lee Kinstle Chevrolet GMC, and held in partnership with CollinsFlags.com.

To learn more about the MVN Flag of Honor, visit the Maumee Valley Network Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/MaumeeValleyNetwork>

helps to save lives, improve care, reduce recovery time and deliver better quality of life for our patients."

The Commitment to Quality Award recognizes hospitals that demonstrate high performance across three or more clinical areas in the GWTG program and show a comprehensive approach to quality improvement. By participating in three or more of these programs, hospitals commit to using real-time data registries, evidence-based protocols and cross-disciplinary teamwork to raise the standard of care across multiple specialties.

The GWTG achievement awards are earned by hospitals that demonstrate a commitment to treating patients according to the most up-to-date guidelines as outlined by the American Heart Association. The program aims to increase healthy days at home and reduce hospital readmissions for heart failure patients.

AFib affects millions of Americans, often leading to heart-related complications as well as increasing the risk for stroke fivefold. However, proper care and treatment can reduce these risks.

About 6.7 million U.S. adults are living with heart failure, a number that is expected to increase to more than 8 million by 2030. Heart failure doesn't mean that the heart has stopped working — it means the heart is having a hard time pumping blood and oxygen throughout the body. While there's no cure for heart failure, patients can live a quality life by working with their health care team to create and stick with a plan that may include medication, symptom monitoring and lifestyle changes.

Four Parkview hospitals were recognized earlier this year with GWTG awards for excellent stroke and dia-

betes care.

Additionally, PRMC has also been recognized as one of the nation's top cardiovascular care hospitals and was named one of U.S. News and World Report Best Hospitals in Indiana, including "high performing" grades for multiple cardiovascular procedures, including abdominal aortic aneurysm repair, heart bypass surgery, pacemaker implantation and stroke.

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