

PAULDING PUTNAM RESTORES POWER TO 3K AFTER SEVERE WEEKEND STORM – GRATEFUL FOR MEMBER PATIENCE & COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Transformers are not impervious to wind and storms. This one caught fire and burned the pole as power shorted from damage.

Paulding Putnam has largely restored power to around 3,000 members following a powerful straight-line wind event that began Friday afternoon, March 13, 2026, and continued through Monday morning, March 16. The storm, which brought gusts up to 77 mph across Ohio, caused widespread damage — one of the toughest faced since 2012's derecho.

Ohio electric cooperatives saw power outages climb over 83,000 by Friday night, and more are still without power at other utilities across the state.

At peak, there were 41 electric outages across Paulding Putnam's seven-county service territory — from Allen County, Indiana, to Putnam County, Ohio. Roughly half of these outages stemmed from AEP transmission issues, notably impacting areas like Ottoville and Antwerp. Paulding Putnam crews documented 40–50 broken poles, countless downed trees, and even a transformer oil fire. Winds remained relentless over four days, making restoration challenging but never deterring the co-op's commitment to

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH: INCLUSION, ADVOCACY, AND COMMUNITY



Paulding County Commissioners signed a proclamation recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and celebrating the contributions of people with developmental disabilities in the community. In the picture: (seated) Tim Cline, (standing) Paulding County Commissioners: Mark Holtsberry, Lisa McClure, Mike Weible & Paulding County Board of DD Superintendent.

March is recognized as National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, a time to celebrate contributions of people with developmental disabilities and the importance of building communities where everyone belongs. Here in Paulding County, that commitment to inclusion continues to grow through advocacy, community partner-

ships, and the voices of people with lived experience.

People with developmental disabilities are active members of our communities. They are students, employees, neighbors, volunteers, and friends whose talents and perspectives strengthen our schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods. True inclusion means ensuring that everyone has the

opportunity to participate fully in community life and pursue the goals that matter most to them.

Across Ohio, more than 110,000 children and adults with developmental disabilities receive support through their local County Boards of DD. These services exist today because individuals with dis-

(Continued on Page 2)



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PERI DIST 2 CHAPTER 10 MEETING DATE SET

NOTICE: PERI District 2 Chapter 10 Paulding County will hold their meeting Wednesday, April 1, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Community Room of Paulding Co. Library. Speaker will be Gina Weidenhamer, Paulding Chief of Police. All are welcome.

OUT OF SIGHT... OUT OF MURDER AT THE HUBER

The story revolves around Peter Knight (played by Grant Smalley), an author who is grinding out a murder story in an old mansion with a down to earth housekeeper Minna (Mercedes Moncivais), and where another author was murdered years before. A weird electrical storm effects a cosmic snafu and his characters come to life. There's the lovely ingenue Kay (Gretchen Clark), the trusty butler Cog-

(Continued on Page 7)

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United Edge Spring Farm Toys	6
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Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News

Community Calendar

- TUE & WED**
- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p
- March 23**
- Defiance Legends & Lore Presentation @ St. John's UCC, Defiance, 7p
- March 24**
- Trivia on Tap @ Iron Horse Brews, Sherwood, 6p
 - Defiance Library Board committee meeting @ Defiance Library, 12p
- March 25**
- Little Raiders Pre-K Screening @ WT Payne Elem
 - Lenten Lunches @ Paulding 1st Presbyterian Church, 12p
 - WBESC Board Meeting @ Paulding Conf Rm, 5:30p
- March 26**
- Little Raiders Pre-K Screening @ WT Grover Hill Elem, all day by appt.
 - Caring & Sharing Sweet Shop @ St. Paul Lutheran Church, 4:30-6:30p
 - Community Lenten Service @ Auglaize Chapel Church, Oakwood, 7p
- March 27**
- Fish Frys @ Paulding Knights of Columbus, 11a-1p & 4-7p
- March 28**
- Ohio Local History Alliance Meeting @ PC History Museum, Paulding, 2p
- March 31**
- Kindergarten Registration Deadline for Wayne Trace



 Add your event to the calendar
info@westbendnews.net

OBITUARIES

WOODBURN, IN:
Donald Hissong, 91, of Woodburn, Indiana passed away Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at Heritage Park, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.
PAULDING, OH:
Kathleen "Kathy" Helms, 67, of Paulding, passed away March 11, 2026 at Lutheran Hospital. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.



PAULDING, OH:
Josephine R. Wenninger, affectionally known to many as "Grandma Jo", of Paulding, and formerly of Haviland, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 17, 2026, on hospice at the Paulding County Hospital, after a lingering illness.

She was born in Latty, OH, on May 1, 1928, the daughter of Otto and Lydia Stoller Schlatter. Josephine graduated from Latty High School in 1946. In January of 1948, she turned her heart to the Lord and was baptized at the Latty Apostolic Christian Church on April 18, 1948. On May 22, 1949, she was united in marriage to Donald R. Wenninger, who passed away on October 13, 2020, allowing them to enjoy 71+ years of life together. To this union were born 6 sons and 3 daughters, all of whom survive. Larry (Joyce) of Paulding, David (Deborah) of Van Wert, Edwin (Alice) of Van Wert, Cheryl (Ed) Schlatter of Paulding, Charlotte of Paulding, Brenda (Bill) McClure of Haviland, Dennis (Beth) of Defiance, Kevin (Della) of Haviland, and Randall (Joni) of Payne. She is also survived by 25 grandchildren, 69 great grandchildren, and 8 great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, 4 brothers, Joseph, John, Benjamin, and Herman. 4 sisters, Elizabeth Wieland, Laura Dunzab, Emma, and Esther. She also mourned the loss of a great grandson, John Wenninger.

She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother, enjoyed cooking and serving many delicious meals over the years entertaining family and friends. She also enjoyed growing flowers, gardening, quilting and sending cards to encourage others. She loved music and singing hymns, and her greatest enjoyment was spending time with God and her family and prayed often that they could all be in heaven someday.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Monday, March 23, 2026 at Latty Apostolic Christian Church with church clergymen officiating. Burial will follow in Latty Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery, Latty, OH.

Visitation will be held from 1:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 22, 2026 at Latty Apostolic Christian Church Fellowship Hall. There will also be visitation from 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. on Monday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made in Josephine's memory to Country Inn Enhanced Living Center or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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



LATTY, OH:
Ann Marie Sinn, 92, passed away peacefully on March 18, 2026 at Country Inn Enhanced Living Center.

She was born on May 15, 1933 to the late Elmer and Rose (Beer) Haab. On October 18, 1959 she was joined in marriage to Ray Sinn in Milford, IN. He preceded her in death on January 29, 2016. Born to this union were 3 daughters and 6 sons: Suzanne (Earl) Beery, Gary (Paulette), Philip, Jane (Jim) Linder, Mark (Diane), Steven (Joy), Duane (Carrie), Karen and Kurt (Lisa).

Also surviving are 36 grandchildren; 28 great grandchildren; 2 sisters, Irma Stoller and Nettie Haab; 2 brothers Paul Haab and Don (Martha); 4 sisters-in-law: Minnie (Nelson) Beer, Renee Sinn, Paula Haab, and Marcy Haab.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Elmer & Rose Haab; husband, Ray; sisters

Dorothy Steffen and Phyllis Wuethrich; brothers Ray and Steven Haab; in-laws Walter Steffen, Robert Wuethrich, Kathy Haab, Carl & Bertha Sinn, Walter Sinn.

At the age of 17, she gave her heart to the Lord and was baptized. She faithfully served Him for 75 years. Ann graduated from Milford High School in 1951. One of her greatest joys was being a mother and grandmother, and spending time with her family. She loved sewing and was a seamstress for several companies. She also supported HarvestCall with her sewing. Ann volunteered with the American Red Cross and at Van Wert County Hospital. She was a devoted member of Latty Apostolic Christian Church.

Funeral service will be held at 10:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at Latty Apostolic Christian Church with church clergymen officiating. Burial will follow in Latty Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at Latty Apostolic Christian Church Fellowship Hall. There will also be visitation from 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ann's memory to Country Inn Enhanced Living Center or CHP Hospice.

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

Scripture of the Week

"Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good."

— 1 Peter 2:2-3

INSIDE OUT



1st Samuel 16:7 (NIV) states: "But the Lord said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.'"

This scripture occurs in the context of Samuel's search for the new king of Israel. God sends Samuel to anoint a new king after rejecting Saul. When Samuel sees Eliab, Jesse's eldest son, he is impressed by his outward appearance. However, God reminds Samuel that He does not judge based on physical traits or status—rather, He values the condition of a person's heart.

1. God sees beyond mere appearances and looks into the inner character and inten-

• Local police, fire, and EMS personnel who managed traffic and responded to hazardous situations with professionalism and care.

• Community partners who kept our crews fueled and fed, especially Millie's Cafe in Ottoville and the Schlatter Family. Your kindness meant the world during long, difficult hours.

"Thank you to all members for your extraordinary patience and understanding during this frustrating time," said Randy Price, Paulding Putnam President and CEO. "We know power outages disrupt daily life, and we truly appreciate how our community came together with calm and support. While restoring power quickly is always our goal, safety comes first, and I'm incredibly proud of our team for working long hours in tough conditions without losing sight of that commitment."

As a member-owned coop-

tions of individuals. This serves as a reminder that true worth is found within, not in external features or societal standards.

2. We have a tendency to make snap judgments based on looks. The Lord encourages us to approach others with a mindset that seeks to understand their true value and potential.

3. The Lord calls believers to cultivate a heart that is aligned with God's will. Our actions, motivations, and character should reflect a genuine faith that pleases God.

In essence, this scripture invites us to reflect on our own perceptions and to seek to understand and value others as God does.

This Lenten season, consider permanently surrendering to God those things that so easily beset us, such as pride, arrogance, and vanity. Just to name a few. These are traits that keep us focused on the outward appearances. Remember, God focuses on inward appearances, not outward ones.

"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." — Psalm 51:10 (NKJV).

Fast and pray. Pray for me, and I'll pray for you.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

(PC DD... cont'd from Page 1)



Shenia Mesker, a Paulding County resident who receives services through PCBDD, was appointed to serve on the board in April 2025, becoming the first person receiving services to hold this position in the county.

abilities and their families spoke up many years ago about the need for better opportunities and support. Continued advocacy by individuals and families helped build a strong system that allows people to receive services locally while remaining connected to their communities.

In Paulding County, inclusion and advocacy continue to shape how services and decisions are made. In April 2025, Paulding County resident Shenia Mesker, an individual who receives services through the Paulding County Board of DD, was appointed to serve as a member of the DD board; the first time this has occurred in Paulding County. Including the perspective of someone

and contractor goes home safe at the end of the day."

Clean up and inspections will continue this week, and crews are ready for continued support if weather conditions worsen.

Paulding Putnam extends its deepest thanks to everyone who made this restoration possible, including:

• Mutual aid crews and contractors, including Frankart Power Line Services, Tricounty Rural Electric Cooperative, and North Western Electric Cooperative.



WARSAW, IN:
Peggy I. Wolffe, age 87, of Warsaw, IN, formerly of Paulding, OH, passed away on Friday, March 13, 2026 at Mason Health and Rehab Center, Warsaw, IN.

Peggy was born on January 31, 1939, in Lima, OH, to the late Harold and Lena (White) Gilroy. On May 29, 1965, she married William L. "Bill" Wolffe who passed away in 2005.

She worked at Dana Weatherhead, Antwerp, OH in shipping and receiving, retiring after 34 years of service. Peggy was a member of the Paulding United Methodist Church, Paulding V.F.W. Post 587, Paulding Eagles Aerie #2405, Ritzzy Buckeye Red Hatters, Relay for Life, the Original Bunco Club, and volunteered at the Paulding County Senior Center.

Peggy is survived by her children: William H. "Bill" (Brenda) Wolffe, Paulding, OH; Tiffany (James Dawson) Ralston, Princeton, IN; sister, Dorothy Martin, Fort Myers, FL; grandchildren: Cody Wolffe, Ethan Wolffe, Wyatt Wolffe, Blaze (Karissa) Cotterman, Ciara (Andrew) Rethlake, Trevor Strete; great grandchildren: Lacy, Harley, Lieam, Swae, Lennon, Abi, Lane, Mickie.

She is also preceded in death by her daughter, Susette Wolffe; brothers: Kenneth Gilroy, Gene Gilroy, Paul Gilroy; sisters: Betty Burden, Arlie Mae Gilroy.

Funeral service will be at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 28, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH with Pastor Ric Beals officiating. Burial will follow in Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding, OH.

Visitation will be from 11:00 A.M. until time of services at the funeral home on Saturday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Peggy's memory to the Paulding V.F.W. Post 587.

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

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THE SCHOOLHOUSE BLIZZARD

Penny for your Thoughts
by: Nancy Whitaker

The day was January 12, 1888. The place was the Upper Midwest of the U.S. consisting of the states of Nebraska, Dakota Territory and Minnesota. The day started out with fairly warm weather and as children left for school some felt their coats were not needed.

With more than a mile to walk, the one room school started on time with Minnie Freeman as the teacher. Minnie was only 20 years old at the time and the day began as a normal day. One student said, "The sun was out until about 1:00 p.m.. Then the wind picked up, temperatures dropped and went from 21 degrees to -20 in a couple of hours."

The snow came quickly without much notice and the wind was so strong it blew the door off the sod school house. Minnie used her head and got a piece of rope from the school and tied 13 children together to battle the cold, wind and snow. They made it to a farm house about half mile away from the school.

Minnie was named a hero in Nebraska, but the blizzard took approximately the lives of 215 children. One 70 year old farmer died in the blizzard after getting lost after feeding his livestock. Transportation came to a halt with the blizzard stopping the trains and any means of travel. One lady

got caught in the blizzard and got into a haystack to protect herself. Days later they found her alive, but she died after surgery.

Pioneers William and Kate Krampen who lived in a small sod house in the Dakota Territory were unprepared for the blizzard. They ran out of coal for their fire, so William was forced to go to the town of Parker which was 23 miles away to get coal and supplies. While William went to town 19 year old Kate gave birth to their son, Henry. This was on January 8 and while he was in town the blizzard struck. William's friends tried to get him not to head for his home, but he wanted to get back to



Kate.

He had taken two horses with him and the horses froze and died, but William made it to a pig barn and stayed there. He finally made it home to his wife and new baby Henry.

I, of course, recall the blizzard of 1978, but even though we didn't like being without lights or heat we all survived and still talk about our experiences. Lots of people have generators today to use if electric goes off and we have cell phones, flashlights and good weather reporting. It's always good when we get that warning, because we have time to go get necessities like toilet paper and milk.

Do you like snow? I always have, but the older I get the less I like it. Do you remember the Blizzard of 1978? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny for your Thoughts.

HONOR FLIGHT NORTHEAST INDIANA CELEBRATES 55 FLIGHT!

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana (HFNEI) will celebrate its 55th flight to Washington D.C. on Wednesday, April 22nd, 2026.

Honor Flight Northeast Indiana has safely transported 4,236 veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. For the upcoming 55th flight, 85 veterans are confirmed to participate: 3 from the Korean War, 13 from the Cold War, 66 from the Vietnam War, 3 served during other conflicts. Among these honored veterans, two have been awarded Bronze Stars.

HFNEI President, Cathy Berkshire states "We are so

excited to be taking our 55th Honor Flight to honor an additional 85 of our most deserving Veteran Heroes! Thank you to the Fort Wayne, Northeast Indiana, Northwest Ohio communities for helping us fulfill our mission!"

Berkshire states, "We in-

vite everyone to join the Welcome Home Celebration to honor these heroes as they return from Washington, D.C. Please plan to arrive at the airport around 8:30 p.m. for the welcome home. You are also welcome to bring a folding or camp chair to use while waiting for our return."

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



March 2001: Paulding County's Mike Hyman #40 outjumped LeBron James #23 when the Wayne Trace Raiders faced Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary in the Ohio State Tournament Div. 3 semifinal game in Columbus.

By: MELINDA KRICK
25 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Progress, March 21, 2001:

The Wayne Trace Raiders boys, fresh from a Division III regional championship, prepare to battle nationally ranked Akron St. Vincent St. Mary (featuring a student named LeBron James) in a state semifinal basketball matchup. Akron won the hard-fought game 56-50.

The local volunteer group "Friends of the Playground" is offering youngsters a chance to help design a new playground to be built at LaFountain Park in Paulding. Organizers Sue Thompson, Karen Moore, Linda Reineck and Kim Sutton are seeking donations, coordinators and volunteers.

Paulding County Hospital hosts an open house for its new maternal-child care unit, which can accommodate up to six mothers and nine babies.

50 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Progress, March 17, 1976:

Local resident Grover Hipp recalls the big 1913 Flood that impacted most of Ohio and much of Indiana. The greatest damage in our county was at Oakwood where the water was four feet deep on Main Street.

A petition with 171 signatures was presented to Paulding Village Council requesting that property owners within the village clean up their properties.

Ninety-three students participated in the annual Paulding High School and Jr. High School Science Fair. Winning Grand Awards for their projects were junior high students Scott DeGood, Blake Jeffery, Kevin Dix and Lisa Michael, and high school student Mike Phlipot.

The County Bicentennial Commission is making plans to celebrate the country's birthday.

75 Years Ago

From the Paulding Progress, March 22, 1951:

A polio benefit auction brings in \$823 for the local polio chapter. Auctioneers Paul Stouffer, Irven Shaw and Glenn Bair sold merchandise donated by local businesses and residences.

The general public and students of Paulding Village Schools have openly voiced their displeasure with school board members who voted against rehiring Coach Rex Burke.

Members of the Upper Maumee Naturalists Club hold their monthly meeting in Antwerp at the home of Otto Ehrhart. He is reported to have one of the largest all-round nature collections in Ohio.

Coming soon at the Paulding Theatre: "San Francisco" with Clark Gable and Spencer Tracy; "Square Dance Katy" and "Frisco Tornado" with an Our Gang comedy; a Saturday midnight show previewing the Sunday feature; a special Easter Sunday presentation, the color Western "Oh! Susanna" plus news and cartoon; and "Magnificent Yankee" with added short features.

From the Payne Reflector, March 22, 1951:

Payne to Have New Furniture Factory. Carl Hart, who operates The Payne Furniture Shop, has started preliminary production on several small furniture items such as storage hassocks and telephone stands. The new company, which will be known as Hart Manufacturing Co., will eventually employ about 50 people.

Coming to the Strand Theatre in Payne: "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" starring John Wayne; and "My Foolish Heart" with Susan Hayward, plus news and cartoon.

125 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Republican, March 21, 1901:

Mr. W.S. Hardesty is now busily at work on his book, Representative Citizens of Paulding County. The work will contain about 1,000 pages and will be embellished with portraits of about 300 of the county's leading citizens.

Paulding County Sunday School Association will hold an annual convention at Havi-land April 3-4.

From the Paulding Democrat, March 21, 1901:

The Drs. Sherrard Bros. now have their new office completed at Oakwood, and it is the best arranged and equipped office you will find in the county. The operating

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.

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MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Dennis Orda Thrasher was born March 10, 1885, in Indiana, the son of James N. Thrasher, born March 16, 1853, in Ohio, and Elmira "Myra" Clarica (Thompson) Thrasher, born 1858 in Indiana. This couple was married December 31, 1877, in Indiana.

After their marriage, the couple moved to Brown Township, as James had bought ground and began farming. A son, Clarence Clifton Thrasher, was born July 14, 1878, followed by the birth of Edna in June 1880, Arthur Ray on April 28, 1882, Ollie in 1883, Dennis in March 1885, Orra in December 1888, and Blanche A. on July 23, 1889.

On December 12, 1889, James passed away. He was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Putnam County.

Elmira remarried on April 14, 1895, to Charles A. Barnes, a widower from Brown Township. Charles's wife, Sarah Emma Bidlack, had passed away in 1894. By 1900, Dennis had quit school after the seventh grade. Charles and Elmira became the parents of Ross, born December 1891, and Alonzo, born in 1893, who passed away in 1894. Ivy was born in December 1895, and Lena in March 1899.

By 1900, the family was farming in Brown Township. Daughters Hazel Viola, born in 1900, and Revella Agnes, born in 1903, were later added to the family.

On February 20, 1908, Dennis enlisted in the Na-

tional Army, serving in Company B, 19th Infantry. He was stationed at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri. Dennis was listed as 6 feet tall, a farmer, with blue eyes and brown hair. He was discharged February 19, 1911, at Ft. McDowell, California, on expiration of service, with excellent character.

Dennis reenlisted and served in the 18th Infantry until 1916. Dennis was living in Grass Lake, Michigan, when he registered for the World War I draft on February 16, 1918. He served with Company F, 49th Infantry, with the rank of Sergeant out of Michigan. On July 26, 1918, he was sent to Hoboken, New Jersey, to board the ship Taormina and sail for France.

On January 16, 1919, Dennis boarded the ship Belgic in France and sailed for home. He was honorably discharged February 15, 1919.

After returning home from France, Dennis moved back to Michigan, where he worked odd jobs for a living.

On October 8, 1922, in Lucas County, Ohio, Dennis married Viola Roberts Mansfield. She was born August 13, 1881, in Fremont, Michigan.

Before 1930, they moved to Toledo, Ohio, where they lived on Andrus Road. The couple had a daughter, Nora Eileen, born October 13, 1923. They also welcomed Shirley Ann on July 13, 1925.

By 1930, the Thrasher family was living in Milan, Michigan, where Dennis was farming. Viola's mother was living with them.

By 1940, the Thrashers had moved to Washington Township in Paulding County. Dennis was still engaged in farming, and the girls were attending school.

In 1942, Dennis registered for the World War II draft. At age 57, he was not chosen.

On August 12, 1947, Dennis passed away at home. Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 14, 1947, at the Roselm Church. He was buried in Mt. Zion Cemetery, Putnam County.

...Until Next Time!

department is up to date in every particular, and anyone wanting a leg or arm sawed off can be accommodated there in the most professional manner.

In the case of the State of Ohio vs. Mr. Smith, charged with using profane language, was tried in Probate Court last Friday. A jury trial was had and a large number of witnesses were heard. The jury found the defendant guilty and the court assessed against him a fine of \$1 and the costs amounting to \$38 in all.

Our bandstand needs a

new coat of paint. Who will originate some kind of a scheme to have it done this spring?

Real estate is changing hands so frequently of late that one hardly knows their next door neighbor.

We have pretty good assurance that it will not be long until we have an electric railroad following the Miami and Erie Canal from Toledo to Cincinnati. This certainly would be a good route and be a great improvement in the country through which it passes.

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RIVERSIDE TIRE

LOCAL BILLIARDS TEAM EARNS THIRD PLACE FINISH AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT



Pictured above is the Billiards Team who competed at the Indiana Amusement & Music Operators Association Pool Championship: (l-r) Chris Beardsley, Mike Williams, David Beck, Bruce Stutz, and Art Razo.

A local billiards team representing Five Span Inn in Defiance, Ohio, achieved an impressive third-place finish at the Indiana Amusement & Music Operators Association (IAMOA) Pool Championship, held March 12-15 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Competing in the Open B-Division, the team faced strong competition from

across the region, finishing 3rd out of 132 teams in the tournament.

The team is part of the Valley National 8-Ball League Association (VNEA) and is led by Team Captain David Beck. Their outstanding performance reflects both skill and teamwork, as they advanced through multiple rounds over the four-day

event to secure a spot among the top finishers.

"It was a great group that played as a team, lifting each other up along the way to accomplish our goal," said Beck.

This achievement highlights the dedication and competitive spirit of local players and brings recognition to the Defiance-area billiards community.



DAYDREAMER

Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender

As a child, I did a fair amount of daydreaming. The subject of my dreams was always the same. I wanted to grow up and start living in the wonderful world I knew was out there. The world I could see but couldn't quite grasp. And as an adult, I'd help the children in my life do the same.

Years later, as I sorted through my parents' estate, I found papers from my elementary school days. My grade cards reflected the fact that I loved language arts but was not interested in science. I could do well in math when I wanted to. Phonics was

clearly my favorite subject.

I remember sitting at my school desk with third grade classmates as we took turns reading aloud from our textbooks. If the subject wasn't of interest to me, I had to concentrate on paying attention. I made it my official duty - just pay attention. I was an experienced daydreamer who knew that allowing myself to zone out meant a very real risk of being called upon to read the next paragraph, and I'd better know which paragraph is next.

But recess was the best. Fresh air and sunshine. Monkey bars and swing sets. A playground that appreciated our energy.

Now that I'm an adult, I'd like to find a copy of my third grade Social Studies book and read it once again. I'd like to know why it couldn't keep my attention.

Had I been in charge of my own curriculum, my ideal day would have involved a more hands-on approach. I would have loved to have learned about houseplants. About bird feeders and kitty-cats. About flowers and musical instruments.

My homework assignment would have been teaching myself to read music. I would return each morning with a saxophone in hand and prove I'd spent some time practicing.

It may be true that the daydreamer in us is most active during our childhood years. After we become adults, we stop dreaming and start living. We know there's a happily-ever-after out there somewhere.

I was six years older than my brother Stevie, who had Down syndrome. Occasionally I'd think about what life would be like had Stevie not been born with special needs. I remember thinking his future would not be the same as mine. He'd never drive a car. He'd never raise a family. He'd be a brother who'd probably spend time with my husband and children, and that's what happened.

When Stevie was born, his diagnosis was enough to make my parents feel as if their dreams could never come true. They had been given a son who would need extra care all the days of his

life.

If only my parents had known the joy Stevie was about to unleash on the world, they could have simply decided to live in the happily-ever-after they didn't know was before them.

As we watched Stevie grow and experience the wonders of the world, our "Why us?" question took on new meaning. It went from an underlying feeling of sadness to one of privilege. Why was he given to us? Why were we, and those around him, a part of his life?

Anyone who knew Stevie also knew what his hugs felt like. And his pats on the back were the best. He knew how much others liked to see a basketball go through the hoop from the three-point line, so that was his gift back to the world.

In my collection of old papers are a few Bryan Times Cage Classic newspapers that were published the week before the annual All-Star event. I've already looked up why the word "cage" is used in reference to basketball. Possibly a student writer would like to spend some summer hours writing the history of The Cage Classic and let us know all the good things there are to know.

The Bryan Times newspaper sponsored The Cage Classic every year from 1983 through 2019. The event was on hold for three years until Hicksville Schools began hosting it once again in 2023. It's an evening that leaves spectators in awe of how a basketball can be tossed around a court.

We quickly learn why it's called the "Slam Dunk" contest as we watch those who've taught themselves to slam a ball through a hoop - go ahead and slam a ball through a hoop.

Back in the day when Stevie was an athlete in the Cage Classic, he was given the opportunity to show off his three-point skills. A video of him making three-pointers can be found on the Stevie Kimpel Facebook page as well as on YouTube.

This year's event will take place on Saturday evening March 28th. All proceeds go to our local Special Olympics programs.

The evening's schedule can be found on the Stevie Kimpel Classic Facebook page.

What an honor it is to watch these young athletes who've paid attention, worked on their skills, and decided to concentrate on what it takes to be a member of a basketball team.

It's likely true that the daydreamer lives in all of us. Our curriculum may change over the years, but from one chapter to the next, our happily-ever-after is unfolding right in front of us - if only we pay attention.

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

THE KISS

A story that was written a long time ago but never published. Back at the turn of the century there was a boy who aspired to be a boxer. In those days, there was a fight every Saturday night, and he had been quite successful beating all comers. This was his life and all that he dreamed about. He would move to the big city to seek his fame.

On his first two fights, he had gotten beat up pretty bad. It had taken him weeks to recover, and now he was wondering if he should give it up. He would tell his friends he was leaving but he never left. He had invested too much to quit. He thought about going back home but that was not an option. He spent hours a day at the local gym trying to hone his skill. He had made a few bucks from his fights, but now cash was running out, so he found a job at a local restaurant.

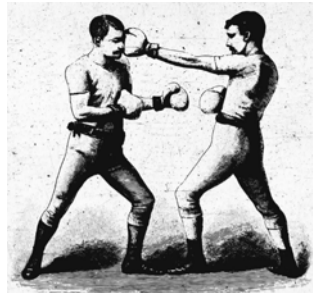
He enjoyed working at the restaurant. It was a mom-and-pop establishment, and he got to cook, wait tables, and he didn't even mind doing the dishes. The proprietors treated him like a son, and they could have been his parents.

Every night they were busy, he didn't have a chance to think about his problems. Also after everything was wrapped up he got a good meal, and he needed that to sustain himself.

He got into a routine. Every night he would get off around 8:00, and head for the local pool hall, where he would play pool for a couple of hours. At 10:00 he would put up his queue, bid the boys fairwell, and head home to be greeted by Miss Brown. Miss Brown had rented him a room at a very reasonable rate, and she was like a mother to him.

He would run an errand for her once in awhile, and she would stay up late every evening to let him in when he came home. But tonight as he left the pool hall something was troubling him. A new girl had moved in upstairs. She was aspiring actress. She was quite petite and pretty, but he had no contact with her, except to say hi when they were coming or going.

Miss Brown had invited them to dinner on Sunday., and he had gotten to talk to Becky, but all he really knew about her was that she also was from a small town. As he left the pool hall that night the boys started kidding him about going home to Miss Brown. Then they started kid-



ding him about going home to Becky. Something about all this ribbing started to get to Bob so tonight instead of turning left for the short walk home, he turned right and began to walk.

He walked for blocks, just he and the night, and his thoughts, as he walked. He continued walking until he realized that he was in a strange neighborhood, and wasn't exactly sure where he was, but he just kept walking. Suddenly he became aware that there were two men following him. At first he panicked, but then he started to devise a plan of what he might do. As he passed an alley, he turned quickly and ran for everything he was worth. Out on the street, down another alley, and he never looked back. He ran for a long time before he looked back and he didn't see anybody.

He found three trash cans beside the sidewalk and hid behind them for some time until he decided to come out. He turned left down a couple more blocks, and then another left turn and he was headed for home. But now it was getting quite late and as he tapped on the door Miss Brown didn't answer. He stood there for what seemed to be at least a half hour, just tapping and waiting.

As he waited he heard someone coming down the stairs. It was Becky carrying a coal oil lamp. She opened the door and they stood for a few minutes just looking at each other. They stepped in the hall and Becky put her lamp on a small table. They stood for a few minutes making small talk. Bob was still just trying to calm down from what had happened.

The lamp was flickering, but when Becky tried to adjust it it went out. Bob had a match in his pocket from work, and as he struck it flared up, to the point where they could see each other, but directly went out. They were standing there in the dark. Then something happened that shook Bob even more than his narrow escape. Becky put her arms around his neck and kissed him.

He was totally surprised. They found a couch and

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PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding, Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill, VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

For Questions Call: 419-399-3630
or Visit: www.pauldingcountywmea.com

talked deep into the night. She was from a small town in Ohio and had three siblings. Bob never did go back to the pool hall. Every night after his shift he would be heading home and Becky would be waiting. Here the story ends.

I didn't hear the final story. I know she had promised her

minister that if she ever married he could do the honors. I have heard that there's a small town in Ohio where some of their descendants are still living today. Few people ever make the big time, in the big town, but life is lived in the small towns.

—James Neuhouser

PAULDING SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES ATHLETES, APPROVES STAFFING AND POLICY UPDATES



Girls Basketball - Front L-R: Tori Schlatter, Libby Breier, Estie Pease, Aly White, Jodi Griffith (coach) Back L-R: Makayla Carr, Madison Clark, Kayleigh Dunham, Anya Mead, Kate Manz, Jayla Griffith, Matt Arellano (coach).



Wrestling - L-R: Jim Pumphrey (coach), Stroker Etter, Civil Pumphrey, Landon Dasher, Tanya Rickenberg (coach)

Paulding Exempted Village Schools Board of Education Meeting Summary Meeting Date: March 17, 2026
Guests and Public Participation



Boys Basketball - From L-R: Jordan Manz, Javvon Stiltner, Max Daeger, Gannon Parrett, Landon Manz. Back L-R: Logan Stoller (coach), Xander Kuckuck, Blake Rhonehouse, Grady Barton, Tyson Manz, Jalen Manz, Zach Barton, Brian Miller (coach)

PHS Athletes were recognized for their GMC Championships and successful seasons.

Treasurers Report:

- Approval of the February 17, 2026 Regular meeting minutes.
- Approval of the February 23 and 26, 2026 Special meeting minutes
- Approval of financial reports and bills for February 2026.

Administrators' Report:

- Superintendent
- Student Enrollment
- Paulding Academic Hall of Fame recipients: Betty Schlatter-Class of 1966; Carlton Schlatter-Class of 1979; Frank Lands-Class of 1992.

- PCOC Update
- Light/Chiller Project Update
- FFA Pollinator Garden
- Amy Barnes- Special Education Director
- Andi Mead- Athletic Director

The following Recommendations have been approved:

- To place a notice in the Paulding Progress regarding Public notice in accordance with Section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revise Code that Suzanne Monnier, who was previously employed by the Board of Education as a teacher and retired through STRS, is seeking re-employment with Paulding Exempted Village School District in the same position following her retirement service. The Board of Education will hold a public meeting on the issue of re-employing the above-named person at a meeting to be held on April 21, 2026 at 6:00 PM at Oakwood Elementary School

- The following Policies: Revise policies as noted: 3440 - Job-Related Expenses, 4440 - Job-Related Expenses, 5112 - Entrance Requirements, 5421 - Grading, 5430 - Class Rank, 6220 - Budget Prepara-

- tion, 6320 - Purchasing and Bidding, 6325 - Procurement-Federal Grants/Funds, 6423 - Use of District Credit Card, 6460 - Vendor Relations; New policies as noted: 6425 - Use of District Tax Exempt Certificate; Replace policies as noted: 7540.09 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Early Graduate - Ava Martinez as a 2026 PHS graduate, effective March 12, 2026. All requirements for graduation have been met.
- School Based Health Center MOU with Family Health Care of Northwest Ohio.

The following Personal Recommendations have been approved:

- One year limited extracurricular contracts, effective for the 2026-2027 School Year
- Jim Menzie, Head Football Coach
- Emily Taylor, Head Volleyball Coach
- Shawn Brewer, Head Boys Golf Coach
- Alex Arellano, Head Girls Golf Coach
- Colton Bennett, Head Cross Country Coach
- Jennifer Bradford, Head Cheer Advisor (Football season)

The resignation of the following:

- David Smith, bus driver, for the purpose of retirement, effective at the end of the current contract year. He will have served the district for 29 years.
- Eric Deisler, Junior High Principal, for the purpose of retirement, effective at the end of the current contract year.

(Continued on Page 6)

EASE THE SQUEEZE ON YOUR RETIREMENT INCOME PLAN

Rising prices may not dominate headlines the way they did a year or two ago, but if you're retired, you're probably still feeling them. Even when overall inflation cools, the costliest expenses — like health care, utilities, insurance and property taxes — tend to rise faster than broad inflation numbers suggest. That creates a squeeze that can make you question whether your income plan is built to last.

Fortunately, you often can adjust without drastic cuts that affect your lifestyle. Start by understanding where the pressure comes from and how to build more flexibility into your plan.

Inflation hits retirees differently. You've likely noticed your grocery bill, prescription drug costs and heating expenses haven't returned to "normal." Even small increases compound over time and can chip away at your buying power.

If your income plan was created years ago, it may assume lower inflation or relatively stable price increases over time. Recent years have shown that's not always the case.

Why some income plans feel strained. Any plan relying on fixed withdrawals or rigid budgets can feel tight when living costs rise. If you're drawing from investments, you may hesitate to increase your withdrawals because of market volatility. And if you depend on fixed income sources like Social Security or a pension, yearly cost of living increases may not keep pace with your expenses. You might live 25 to 35 years in retirement, giving small annual cost increases decades to add up.

What you can do without sacrificing stability. A few adjustments can help you stay ahead of rising costs and maintain your financial confidence.

First, review your withdrawal strategy. Ask your financial advisor about flexible approaches that increase income when markets and portfolios perform well and pull back during tougher times. This protects your long-term plan with room to respond to rising prices.

Next, rebalance your portfolio. You may uncover opportunities to shift toward investments with more consistent income or better tax efficiency. Sometimes a small tweak can generate extra cash flow without increasing overall risk.

Finally, look at your income sources. You may be less affected by rising costs if you delay taking Social Security, work a part-time job, add inflation-protected bonds or create predictable lifetime income with annuities, if they're appropriate for your situation.

Don't overlook health care: Health care costs often grow faster than general inflation. Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket expenses can rise annually, and the need for long-term care remains a big financial uncertainty for retirees. Building health care-specific inflation into your plan now can help prevent surprises later. Any savings you have in a health savings account can help you cover health care costs. And many pharmaceutical companies offer financial assistance programs to help pay for costlier medications.

Stay flexible and informed: Today's retirements look different from those of even a decade ago. The key is staying flexible, reviewing your plan regularly and making small adjustments before pressure builds. A financial advisor can help you find the right approach to navigating rising costs without disrupting the life you've worked hard to build.

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

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587
Payne: Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, Vancrest of Payne

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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MADDILAN DOSTER OF ANTWERP MAKES HISTORY AT STATE WRESTLING TOURNAMENT



Maddilan Doster of Antwerp made history at the OHSAA state wrestling tournament March 13-15. Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Under the bright lights of Ohio's biggest stage, four local wrestlers stepped onto the mats at the OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament, held March 13-15 at the Schottenstein Center in Columbus. Competing against the best wrestlers from across the state, Maddilan Doster of Antwerp rose to the occasion, etching her name into school history with a fifth-place finish on the state podium.

Doster, a junior, opened the tournament strong with a decisive 4-0 victory over Kira Maassen of Elyria in the opening round. Her solid defense and control set the tone for a successful weekend against the state's top competition. On day two, Doster secured her place on the podium by pinning Mykah Bailey of Gahanna Lincoln, a critical win that guaranteed her a top-six finish. The accomplishment marked a significant milestone for both Doster and the Antwerp wrestling program. Doster's run toward the championship was challenged in the quarterfinals, where she fell by pin to



Antwerp Archer Maddilan Doster earns the 5th place spot on the OHSAA State podium for Girls Wrestling! Photo by Carrie Kimmel

Michaela Stork of Port Clinton at the 1:36 mark. She later dropped a consolation match to Johanna Bogan of Garrett Morgan, who recorded a pin in 50 seconds. Refusing to end the tournament on a loss, Doster delivered a dominant performance in her final match. She pinned Evie Parmelee of Liberty-Benton in 4:42, securing fifth place in the state and closing the weekend on a

high note. Doster's podium finish represents a historic achievement and highlights her determination, resilience, and growth throughout the season. Her performance at the state tournament not only capped an impressive junior campaign but also set the stage for a promising senior year.

Landon Dasher of Paulding made his debut appearance at the Schottenstein Center this season, earning his first trip to the OHSAA State Wrestling Tournament. The junior opened the weekend with a strong performance, pinning Mitchell Tetreault of Garaway in 4:31 to advance in the championship bracket. On day two, Dasher faced tough competition, falling by pin to Tyler Abbey of Genoa Area in 3:09, followed by a 9-1 decision loss to Gavin Cornell of Port Clinton. Although his tournament run was cut short, Dasher capped an extremely successful season and will look to return to Columbus stronger as a senior.

Thor "Stroker" Etter of Paulding also returned to the state stage, bringing experience and determination back to Columbus. Etter earned a Friday night victory, pinning Grady Hayden of Adena in 3:59 to advance to the second day of competition. Etter later fell by pin to Caleb Greenwood of Beachwood in 3:58 and dropped a 12-5 decision to Gabe Krieger of Graham Local. With his continued hard work and perseverance, Etter remains poised for another return trip to the Schottenstein Center next season.

Civil Pumphrey of Paulding, a sophomore, made her return to the state tournament, gaining valuable experience against top-level competition. Pumphrey opened the tournament with a hard-fought match before falling by pin to Ava Sommers of Walsh Jesuit in 5:19. In consolation action, Pumphrey dropped a 6-1 decision to Sarah Amonette of Olentangy Orange. Despite the early exit, Pumphrey's performance reflects her growth and potential, with a bright future ahead and expectations of returning as a state qualifier.

The accomplishments of these athletes reflect the dedication, perseverance, and competitive spirit of Paulding County wrestling. Congratulations to all who represented their schools and community on Ohio's biggest stage.

FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA RETURNING \$63 MILLION TO FARMERS IN OHIO

Farmer-owned cooperative continues patronage program this spring, returning a total \$280 million in net earnings to eligible customers

At a time when farmers continue to navigate tight margins, elevated input costs and ongoing market uncertainty, Farm Credit Mid-America will return \$280 million in net earnings to eligible customer-owners this March through its patronage program, with \$63 million returning to Ohio farmers.

Customers commonly use patronage payments to:

- Pay down operating or term debt
- Offset spring input and planting costs
- Reinvest in equipment, land or on-farm improvements
- Strengthen working capital and financial resilience

This year's distribution brings the total amount of net earnings returned to customers over the past 10 years to more than \$1.75 billion, underscoring the strength of Farm Credit Mid-America's diverse portfolio and commitment to support farmers through both good and challenging times.

"Returning capital to our customers is just part of how we do business as a cooperative," said Melanie Strait-Bok, Farm Credit Mid-America senior vice president of agricultural lending in Ohio. "Our customers manage risk every day. Patronage gives them a little extra flexibility, whether that's strengthening their balance sheet, improving cash flow or helping them plan for the season ahead."

Farm Credit Mid-America is a farmer-owned cooperative, meaning customers are also owners. Through patronage, a portion of the cooperative's earnings is returned to eligible customer-owners based on the level of eligible business they conduct with the Association. Patronage is an annual decision made by Farm Credit Mid-America's board of directors.

"Over the last decade, we've returned more than \$1.75 billion directly to the people who make agriculture work," said Tara Durbin, chief lending officer of agriculture at Farm Credit Mid-America. "A portion of that capital stays in Indiana where it supports farms, families and rural communities,

HOMETOWN GIRL POLLOCK WINS NCAA DIVISION II NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN WEIGHT THROW



Virginia Beach, Va. - Antwerp graduate Leslie Pollock captured the NCAA Division II Indoor National Championship in the women's weight throw Friday at the 2026 NCAA Division II Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Pollock, a junior at Ashland University, secured the national title with a personal-record throw of 21.05 meters (69 feet, 0 3/4 inches) on her final attempt in the finals. The mark lifted her past teammate Molly Winner, who entered the meet ranked No. 1 nationally and finished second with a top throw of 20.99 meters (68 feet, 10 1/2 inches). Throughout the season the two Ashland throwers had held the top two spots in the NCAA Division II rankings, but the championship meet saw Pollock claim the top honor and her first national title.

The performance also earned Pollock her first NCAA Division II All-American recognition, while Winner collected the fifth All-American honor of her career. The Eagles scored 18 team

points in the event, putting Ashland's women's team in first place after the opening day of competition, two points ahead of Pittsburg State.

Ashland also had success on the men's side, as graduate student Brayden Jackson earned his first Division II All-American honor with a tie for fourth place in the men's pole vault, clearing 5.16 meters (16 feet, 11 inches).

Other Ashland competitors included the women's distance medley relay team of Emilie Lemon, Olivia Saylor, Jade Avance and Hope Sievert, which placed 12th with a time of 12:32.22. The men's DMR team of Wes Taylor, Joe Wahl, Colton Thress, and Zach Vales also finished 12th in 10:04.88.

Freshman Jon Lutz qualified for the finals of the men's 60-meter hurdles after placing fifth in the preliminary round with a time of 7.89 seconds. Pollock is a 2022 graduate of Antwerp High School and is the daughter of Tam and Terry Pollock of Antwerp. Her championship marks Ashland's first individual national title in track and field, indoors or outdoors, since 2022.

(Continued from Page 5)

He will have served the district for 29 years.

- Sarah Heller, JH/HS Cafeteria worker, effective 2/27/26. She served the district for 4 1/2 months.
- Haleigh Kline, JH/HS Cafeteria worker, effective 3/27/26. She served the district for 3 years.

Extended Contract:

- Eric Deisler, 20 days effective July 1-31, 2026.

fective July 1-31, 2026.

One-year limited contract effective for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Jessica Riggs, 7th Grade ELA Teacher
- Andrew Hoeffel, PHS Social Studies Teacher

One-year extra-curricular contract for the 2025-2026 school year:

- Wyatt Beckman, HS Assistant Baseball volunteer

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QUEEN JUBILEE 51 PAGEANT SET FOR MARCH 27 IN VAN WERT

On Friday, March 27, 4 young women will vie for the title of Queen Jubilee 51 during the Van Wert Peony Pageant. The annual event will once again be held at Lifehouse Church in Van Wert at 7:00pm, with doors opening at 6:30pm. Every candidate will receive a minimum of \$300 in scholarships, in addition to a variety of goods and services donated by local businesses and individuals. The lucky young woman crowned Queen Jubilee will receive a \$1,500 scholarship, and over \$5,000 in scholarships will be awarded that evening.

Candidates have already completed some areas of competition, and the remaining areas of competition to be scored during the pageant include: talent, evening gown, and on stage questions. The evening will be hosted by Zach Shaffer as Master of Ceremonies, and the contestants will be escorted on stage by Gavin Burkhalter and Cole Story. Their flower girls are Haislea Speice, Lynnix Bragg, Lowen Maxey, and Vera Pohlman.



Jayden Bragg, Lincolnview HS

involved in choir, track, and cross country, and is active in the school's music program singing with the select ensemble. Jayden is also a member of the National Honor Society and is a Junior Rotarian. Through the CEO program, Jayden is gaining future career experience at Cowan Funeral Home. She is currently enlisted in the Army National Guard where she will be training to become a combat medic after graduation. After her service, Jayden plans to attend college to pursue a degree in mortuary sciences. Jayden is sponsored by Cowan Funeral Home and Steven's Automotive.



Chloe Nielsen, Vantage Career Center

Vantage Career Center: Chloe Nielsen is representing Vantage and is the daughter of Brandi Nielsen. She is currently enrolled in the Criminal Justice program and serves as a lab assistant. Chloe is a Junior Rotarian and participates in workplace learning at the Van Wert County Jail. She is also very involved as a dancer at Kim Hohman's Danceworks, where she has won numerous awards as both a soloist and member of the team. Chloe attends Lifehouse church where she serves as a group leader for 5th grade girls. After graduation, Chloe plans to attend college to continue pursuing a degree in the Criminal Justice field. She is sponsored by Grade A Tattoos.

Van Wert: Meah Johnson is the daughter of Lisa and Diamond Johnson and is representing Lincolnview High School and is the daughter of Heather Bragg. She is



Meah Johnson, Van Wert HS

representing Van Wert High School. Meah has been involved in volleyball and softball for four years, and is active in the school's fine arts programs, through band, choir, select choir and theater. She is very involved in Van Wert Civic Theater and has participated in youth groups at Calvary Evangelical Church and First United Methodist. Meah also service through mission work and vacation bible school programs. After graduation, Meah plans on attending a college or university to pursue a degree in theater. She is sponsored by TRUland Ag Equipment.

WAYNE TRACE BOARD HEARS ROBOTICS DEMONSTRATION, APPROVES STAFFING CHANGES AND TECHNOLOGY DISCUSSION

HAVILAND - The Wayne Trace Local School District Board of Education met in regular session on March 9, 2026, at the high school lecture room, with all five members present. A highlight of the evening

came during public participation, as junior Evan Benschneider demonstrated the school's robotics program. Benschneider showcased "Battle Bots" that will compete at Bowling Green State University on March 12. Wayne Trace will be represented by five teams and five robots at the competition. Assisted by instructor Ed Stuart, Benschneider explained that participation in robotics has helped him develop problem-solving, troubleshooting skills, and an understanding of torque.

Treasurer Lori Davis reported that the county auditor is expected to release the next tax settlement soon. She also updated the board on district investments, noting that with overnight rates similar to long-term rates, funds are beginning to shift into longer-term investments.

The board approved a consent agenda that included minutes from the February meeting, financial reports, and authorization of tax levies, including 4.00 mills inside operating and 21.70 mills outside operating.

Building principals shared updates from across the district. Grover Hill Elementary Principal Jennifer Knoblauch announced an upcoming STEAM Night on March 12 and highlighted recent student projects, including a "Shark Tank" activity and roller coaster engineering by sixth graders. She also noted the hiring of Rylee Miller to replace retiring teacher Kathy Sinn.

Payne Elementary Principal Matt Evans reported on Read Across America activities, including themed dress-up days, and announced a

March 12 daddy-daughter dance and upcoming VIP lunches. He added the school is currently seeking an aide.

At the high school, Principal Mike Myers praised the recent musical production of "Something Rotten Jr.," citing strong attendance and improvements from new projection and sound systems. He also noted upcoming band and choir district competitions.

Junior high principal Joe Linder recognized student success at OMEA music events and reported on professional development plans and STEAM student participation in a Columbus convention.

Athletic Director Kristen Stabler congratulated the girls varsity basketball team on reaching district finals and noted strong wrestling performances. She also announced the Athletic Boosters Reverse Draw scheduled for April 18.

In the absence of Superintendent Paul Jones, Board President Clint Sinn reported that the district is awaiting design drawings for the planned STEAM Center addition before scheduling a community meeting.

A significant discussion centered on student technology. Instructor Chrissy Sinn expressed concerns about transitioning students from laptops to Chromebooks, particularly for high school and College Credit Plus courses that rely on Microsoft programs. Technology Coordinator Ashton Duer explained that cost differences drove the decision, with approximately 80 laptops to remain available for classroom use and student checkout.

Board members acknowledged the concerns but took no formal action.

Maintenance and Transportation Director Greg Schultz reported that a new water heater at Payne Elementary is operational and that the high school hot water tank has been repaired temporarily, with replacement planned for the summer.

The board approved several personnel changes, including the resignation of sweeper Dennis Green, assistant girls basketball coach Mike Priest, and JV volleyball coach Janelle Lucas. Rylee Miller was approved as the new fifth and sixth grade science teacher at Grover Hill, and Abigail Wenzlick was approved as an assistant high school track coach. The board also approved the eighth-grade Washington, D.C. trip scheduled for May.

Additional approvals included adoption of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 to comply with state requirements and continuation of open enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year from April 1 through June 1.

In new business, Stabler proposed auctioning a reserved parking space as part of the Athletic Boosters Reverse Draw fundraiser and presented options for refinishing the gym floor, including the possibility of incorporating a sponsor logo. The board expressed support for both ideas.

The meeting concluded with a motion to adjourn into executive session for personnel matters. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2026.



Emily Lichtie, Crestview HS

Crestview: Emily Lichtle is representing Crestview High School and is the daughter of Mike and Amanda Lichtle. She is an avid volleyball player, and a Varsity Cheerleader. Emily is in FCCLA, NHS, Student Council, where she serves as Secretary, and is the Reporter for Crestview FFA. In May, she will be receiving her State Degree at the Ohio FFA Convention. Emily also dances and cheers at Kim Hohman's Danceworks. After graduation, Emily plans on attending Purdue Fort Wayne to major in communications and speech disorders, to later pursue a Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology. Emily is sponsored by Laudick's Jewelry.

Lincolnview: Jayden Bragg is representing Lincolnview High School and is the daughter of Heather Bragg. She is

(Continued from Page 1)

burn (Joe Curry), a feisty spinster Fiona (Jami Sons-Beard), a dauntless hero Dick Stanton (Brian Spencer), a sultry and fascinating "other woman" Lydia (Julie Larimore), the always pregnant serving girl Addie (Rose Bustos), and the wily lawyer Jordan Dillingham (Daniel Woodruff) waiting for midnight to read the will. Peter loses control of his characters and there is a murder; the intended victim is Peter. Other

murders follow and the culprit is among characters who, having also worked for other authors, know a great deal about the subject. Can Peter find the killer before the killer gets his author? Is romance with the ingenue leading anywhere? Where is the fortune mentioned in the will? All is solved ingeniously with romance, suspense and cosmic wit.

For information visit huberoperahouse.org. This comical version of a murder mystery will keep you in stitches.

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THE LEFT TURN



The Late Model Iron Man Series returns to Millstream Speedway. Photo Credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

This is part 3 of my series on area racetracks. This week I'll cover local speedways that don't run weekly shows but still hold some of the biggest races in the tri-state. All three tracks are in Ohio, Millstream, Eldora and Mansfield. Visit each speedways Facebook and web page for more information and before you leave for the track.

I consider Millstream Speedway, outside of Findlay, my home track. Findlay is unique because they have two tracks, a 4/10 mile clay dirt oval and a 1/4 mile clay dirt oval inside the big track. Millstream has a limited 2026 schedule of six race nights.

Opening night will be June 14th and the track will host the third night of the 2026 Ohio Sprint Week featuring the All Star Circuit of Champions Winged 410 Sprint Series. The B.O.S.S. Non-winged Sprints will be the support class opening night. On other nights Millstream will host National USAC Sprints, World of Outlaw Sprints, and the Great Lakes Super Sprints. The American Late Model Iron Man Series and the Ohio Valley Late Model Series will both appear this summer and so will the USAC Thunder Midgets and Dirt Trucks.

The Big E (Eldora) is known all over the racing world. This historic 1/2 mile high banked dirt oval was built in 1954 in Rossford Ohio by Earl Baltes and in 2004

three time NASCAR Champion, Tony Stewart purchased the famous speedway. It has a lot of race nights during the season and features many classes of cars. 2026 might be its most electric season ever. Recently General Manager Levi Jones stated the tracks' goal is to "Keep the fan experience front and center while continuing to elevate the competition is what Eldora is all about". The 2026 schedule was recently released. It's everything fans love and even better than grandma's cookies. All the crown jewel events return, including the Dirt Late Model Dream and World 100, the Kings Royal, Let's Race Two and 4-Crown Nationals, anchoring another year of can't-miss action on the high banks. This season the track will have higher driver payouts and for the fans all ticket prices will remain unchanged.

Race fans, it's back! Mansfield Speedway (Home of Horsepower). The former NASCAR 1/2 mile paved track has come back to life and is now dirt. Former NASCAR driver Matt Tiffitt sold his NASCAR Charter and used that money to purchase and remodel a closed rundown speedway originally built in 1959 as a 3/8 mile dirt track, converted to a 1/2 mile speedway in 1972 and in 1998 it was paved. The speedway had special dirt brought in for the racing surface last winter. Matt added more bleachers, remodeled the VIP Suites, grand-

stands, kitchen area, restrooms and fresh paint everywhere. They recently purchased and installed a \$1,000,000.00 jumbotron. Appearing this summer, World of Outlaws Sprints and Late Models, BOSS Sprints, Country Concert, Motocross, Super Dirt Car Big Blocks, Dirt Modifieds, Monster Trucks and more.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! (www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/)

TROOPER BAXTER PROMOTED TO SERGEANT IN THE FINDLAY DISTRICT CRASH RECONSTRUCTION



COLUMBUS - Trooper Kyle J. Baxter, Findlay District Crash Reconstruction, was promoted to the rank of sergeant on February 22 and was recognized yesterday by Colonel Charles A. Jones, Patrol superintendent, during a ceremony at the Patrol's Training Academy. Sergeant Baxter remained at Findlay District Crash Reconstruction.

Sergeant Baxter began his Patrol career in October 2010 as a member of the 150th Academy Class. He earned his commission in April of the following year and was assigned to the Wapakoneta Post. As a trooper, he also served at the Van Wert Post. He earned the master trooper designation in 2024.

Sergeant Baxter earned a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural and construction systems management from The Ohio State University in 2005.

Sergeant Baxter served in the United States Army Reserve from 2000 to 2008 and served a combat tour in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol is an internationally accredited agency whose mission is to provide unbiased, professional public safety services through inclusion, collaboration and innovation.

ANTWERP ELEMENTARY 3rd NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

THIRD GRADE:

All A's & B's - Riley Henschen, Emmagrace Baumert, Greta Kobee, Emberly Dunderman-Hutchinson, Owen Larson, Amelia Dunham, Thatcher Friend, Tekota Putnam, Elise Graham, Maxx Reith, Hadley Jackson, Coralyn Smith, Jett Johnson, Owen Wells, Lilah Martenies, Lane Zuber, Deana Miller, August Gordon, Grace Shull

All A's - Whitney Miller, Anya Moore, Sawyer Parisot, Leah Ruffing, Stella Gaisford, Adalind Muir, Standon Myers, Ethan Taylor, Duke Wiesehan, Evelyn Yenser, Liam Gill, Abel Kausser, Zeke Laker

FOURTH GRADE:

All A's & B's - Benson Slattman, Cambria Beregszazi, Zac Barker, Riley Budd, Ava Fidler, Azlyn Foster, Everly Glenn, Kinley Gordon, Payton Heine, Mo Reyes, Casey

WAYNE TRACE ROBOTICS CLASS COMPETES AT BGSU



Wayne Trace Robotics student Evan Benschneider demonstrates his robot at a recent Wayne Trace Board of Education meeting along with instructor Ed Stuart

On March 12, 2026, the Wayne Trace CTE Robotics Class participated in the NORTech Robotics Competition at Bowling Green State University. The focus of the competition was "Combat Robots - Antweight Size" meaning that the robots had to fit in a 14" x 14" x 14" container and weigh one pound or less. During the design and building process of the Antweight robots, students in

the robotics class learned about robotics functions, troubleshooting, part interferences, teamwork and how to overcome design obstacles.

The NORTech Competition is a head-to-head competition between robots in an enclosed space that lasts until one of the robots is deemed destroyed or pushed into an opening in the floor of the combat arena. There were

seven teams that competed through two to three battle-bot-like rounds which were three minutes in length. The top Wayne Trace team, comprised of Evan Benschneider, Eli Johnson, Tristan Lands, and Layla Shellenbarger, finished in third place with the other teams placing fifth, sixth, or seventh. Congratulations to all who participated in this annual competition!

Justinger, Matias Rivera, Lyric Smith, Sarah Willson

All A's - Eve Graham, Irenia Hand, Joanna Zuber, Maryn Cottrell, Deacon Miller, Jaxton Schilt, Kaydence Woolace, Nash Zartman

FIFTH GRADE:

All A's & B's - Brevyn Eicher, Addison Griffiths, Greysyn Hermiller, Deacon Hitzeman, Beckett Zuber, Keegan Moreno, Duke Dangler, Skyler Pierce, Ashlynn Dunham, Roberta Poppe, Roman Laker, Owen Rhonehouse, Hudson Martenies, Wayne Zielke, Grady Stairhime, Paizley Cover, Anna Wiechart

All A's - Madilyn Hogans, Grace Kobee, Ensley Parisot, Mason Ganger, Damian Johnson, Leni Johnson, Bristol Kausser, Parker Schmidt, Jocelyn Skinner, Reece Bidlack, Aria Feasby, Sutton Malfait, Addie Straley, Carter Taylor, Blakely Geesey

PAULDING COUNTY DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

The Paulding County District Advisory Council held its annual meeting on March 2, 2026.

During the meeting, Mark Holtsberry was elected president of the council. Chad Benschneider was elected vice president, and Jammie Hughes was elected secretary for the ensuing year.

Following the retirement of Joseph M. Kuhn, DO, at the end of 2025 as health commissioner, Wendell Spangler, MD, assumed the role effective January 1, 2026. This transition created a vacancy on the Board of Health, which must

be filled by a physician. The position remains unfilled at this time. The appointment will be for a five-year term, expiring in 2031.

Annual reports were presented by Paulding County Health Department personnel summarizing activities for the 2025 calendar year.

Those in attendance included Gene Sheets, Cecil Village; Mark Holtsberry, Paulding County Commissioner; Greg White, Paulding Village; Joe Sukup, Crane Township; Chad Benschneider, Harrison Township; Joe Thome, Benton Township; Jim March, Auglaize Township; Jammie Hughes, Blue Creek Township; Michael Meyer, Crane Township; Blake Sinn, Latty Township; Randy Noggle, Benton Township; Thomas Zuber, Carryall Township; Alex Straley, Paulding Township; Kerry Hook, Harrison Township; Gary Lewis, Auglaize Township; Ron Schmidt, Board of Health; Jacob Shaffer, Board of Health; Chris Bercaw, Board of Health; Wendell Spangler, MD, Health Commissioner; Robin Gonzales, Fiscal Officer/Registrar; Lindsey Manz, BSN, RN, Director of Nursing; Kristen Kurilec, RDN, LD, WIC Director; and Brandi

Schrader, MEd, REHS, Environmental Health Director/Deputy Health Commissioner.

The Paulding County Health Department's 2025 financial report is on file at the health department and may be viewed during regular business hours.

OHIO NATIONAL GUARD STATEMENT ON KC-135 ACCIDENT

Three Ohio National Guard Airmen died when a KC-135 Stratotanker crashed in western Iraq on March 12, 2026.

• Capt. Seth Koval, 38, was an aircraft commander with the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus, with 19 years of service. He lived in Stoutsville, Ohio. His Air Force biography is available at: https://ong.ohio.gov/ohang/121st/content/koval_bio.pdf

• Capt. Curtis Angst, 30, was a KC-135 pilot with the 121st Air Refueling Wing in Columbus, with 10 years of service. He lived in Columbus, Ohio. His Air Force biography is available at: https://ong.ohio.gov/ohang/121st/content/angst_bio.pdf

• Tech. Sgt. Tyler Simmons, 28, was a boom operator with

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the 121st Air Refueling Wing, with eight years of service. He lived in Columbus, Ohio. His Air Force biography is available at: https://ong.ohio.gov/ohang/121st/content/simmons_bio.pdf

The following is a statement from Maj. Gen. Matthew S. Woodruff, Ohio adjutant general:

"Today we mourn the loss of three remarkable Airmen whose service and commitment embodied the very best of our Ohio National Guard. Their impact on their teammates and our mission will not be forgotten. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, friends and fellow service members, and our entire Guard family stands with them as we grieve together during this difficult time."

PURDUE U FORT WAYNE WAIVES APPLICATION & ENROLLMENT FEES

Purdue University Fort Wayne is thrilled to announce that starting March 17, the university will waive all application fees and enrollment deposits for domestic undergraduate students applying for Fall 2026. This initiative eliminates the standard \$30 application fee and the \$50 enrollment deposit, making it more accessible for students to pursue their academic goals at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

"At Purdue Fort Wayne, we believe that finances should

never be a barrier to quality higher education," said Michelle Kuhlhorst, associate vice chancellor for enrollment management.

In addition to the fee waivers, students with a high school GPA of 2.5 or higher—or a transfer GPA of 2.5 or higher—are also eligible for scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$3,000 annually. This is another way Purdue Fort Wayne is working to remove barriers and make higher education accessible to everyone.

The university invites all prospective students to take advantage of these opportunities and join a community dedicated to academic excellence and student success.

For more details on how to apply and qualify for scholarships, visit pfw.edu/admissions.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN APRIL

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is busy planning events for the month of April. The library will close at Noon on April 3rd for Good Friday. National Library Week is April 19-25, with National Library Worker Day being Tuesday April 21st. The theme for the week is "Find Your Joy" at the library.

MAIN BRANCH:

The Adult section will have adult crafts on Mondays, April 6, 13, and 27th starting at 11, while supplies last.

3rd Annual Writers' Conference is April 11th 8:30 a.m.

to 4:00 p.m., registrations can be made at the library.

Adult Bingo Luncheon will be April 20th at 11:00 a.m., Meat and drinks furnished, bring a side dish to share.

Coffee Talk is Thursdays at 1:00 p.m., enjoy a light snack and laughter.

Black Swamp Bookworms will be on Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m., "A Thousand Splendid Suns" by Khaled Hosseini in the featured title.

Adult Cookbook Club will be on Monday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Enter for chance to win "Find Your Joy" Gift basket, April 19-25.

Teen Cooking Club is on Monday, April 27th at 4:00 p.m., all Teens welcome and supplies furnished, call 419-399-2032 to register.

The Children's Room is having Storytime on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. Bring your children for a delightful time, snacks and craft included.

Lego Club will be Thursday, April 16th, 4:00-5:00 p.m. Let's get creative with Legos.

Earth Day Coloring Contest April 20-25. Stop in and color our Earth Day page. Winner will be announced April 27th.

ANTWERP BRANCH:

The Antwerp Branch is having Bunny Stuffed Animal on April 2nd at 3:00 p.m., calling all kids 5 and up, register to make a stuffed bunny to take home. Call 419-258-2855, space is limited.

Book Club Monday April 13th at 6:00 p.m., grab a copy of the latest book, read it and then come to the library as we chat about the book.

Cookbook Club Monday, April 20th at 5:45 p.m. Stop in and pick out a recipe from the books on display, make the dish to share at the meeting. Men and Women are welcome.

Family Game Night is Thursday April 16th, 5:00-6:00 p.m. Always fun playing games with family, why not come to the library and play some games.

Beeswax Class, Thursday April 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Call to register and for more information, 419-258-2855.

Bread Class Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m., register for the class and bring a bowl to mix your bread and any herbs you would like to add. We will get you started on taking your bread home to bake.

GROVER HILL:

The Grover Hill Branch will continue Munchkin club story times on Fridays, April 3 and April 17 at 10:30 a.m.

Senior Bingo is Thursday, April 9th at 1:00 p.m., this in-

cludes a light lunch menu complete with games and prizes for patrons over 50 years. Please call to confirm or cancel your registration. Wear light purple to encourage good humor.

Thursday, April 16th we are cleaning out the garage and that's no joke. Visit our garage books and used goods for a freewill donation. Proceeds will go to the programming fund with a little help from our Friends of the Grover Hill Branch Library.

GHBL Book Club meets on Wednesday, April 29th at 4:00 p.m. The discussion of the novel *I Don't Want to Join a Book Club* by Virginia Ironside should provide some much-needed levity and laughter.

OAKWOOD BRANCH:

The Oakwood Branch invites kids to stop by April 4-8 to make Spring Maraca Craft. It's a great way to celebrate music with creativity.

Try your luck in the Library Book Drawing, April 8-15.

Senior Luncheon Bingo is April 9 at 11:30 a.m., good food, good company and plenty of chances to win.

Ms. Roper's Craft Class is April 9th at 5:00 p.m.

All-Natural Deodorant Workshop is April 11th at 11:00 a.m. Learn how to make your own simple personal care product.

Facebook monthly riddle is April 14th, winner to be announced April 15th.

Adult Cookbook Club returns, April 16th at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share, inspired by this month's theme. Storytime is April 18th at 11:00 a.m.

Sue Paulus, local author, will be here to discuss Teen/Adult Poetry on April 20th at 5:30 p.m.

Book Drawing Giveaway will be April 22-29.

Keychain Wristlet making for Teens and Young Adults (ages 12+) will be April 25 at 11:00 a.m.

Library Gift Basket Drawing will be announced April 30th.

PAYNE BRANCH:

The Payne Branch has Sto-

The West Bend News
Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

rytime's on Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., come listen to stories and make a craft to take home.

Oil Class with Judy. Come make a perfume to take home. It starts at 6:00 p.m. Bring a friend and enjoy the evening.

Books and Coffee Thursday April 23rd at 1:00 p.m. No

reading required, just come and listen to others' talk and share if you like. Bring coffee to sip on and enjoy some time with others.

Jeanne Bennett Calvert will be here Saturday, April 25th at 11:00 a.m. Come listen to her talk about her books.

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

FILED
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

Respectively submitted,

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Antwerp Local School Board of Education hereby gives notice in accordance with section 3307.353 of the Ohio Revised Code that Drew Altimus, currently employed in the District as a Teacher and Athletic Director, will be retired and is seeking employment with the District in such position following retirement. The Antwerp Local School Board of Education will hold a public meeting on the issue of Drew Altimus being employed in the District at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at the Antwerp Local School District Board of Education room.

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

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.sheriffssaleauction.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

Joshua A. Koltak, Attorney for Plaintiff

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Village of Oakwood 2025 annual report is available for viewing.

Please contact the us at:
419-594-3352

Email:
oakwoodvillage@bright.net

Village Town Hall:
PO Box 457
228 N First St. Oakwood

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Paulding County unaudited 2025 Annual Financial Report is now complete and available for inspection at the office of the County Auditor, Paulding County Courthouse, 115 N. Williams St., Paulding, OH 45879.

Claudia J. Fickel
County Auditor

NEWS BREAK: ELECTION NOTICE

All people who are not registered, moved or had a name change and wishes to vote in the upcoming **Primary/Special Election on Tues. May 5th must register by Mon. April 6th** at the **Board of Elections, 105 E Perry St, Paulding**. Persons not certain of their registration validity may call the office at **419-399-8230**, or stop in the office @ 105 E Perry, Paulding.

Regular Office hours: 8 AM – 4 PM, Monday – Friday, Closed for Lunch 12 pm – 1 pm.

IN PERSON: You may also register at the (1) BMV; (2) Dept. of Job & Family Services; (3) Public High Schools or Vocational Schools; (5) County Treasurers' office; (6) Dept. of Health; (7) Dept. of Mental Health; (8) Dept. of Developmental Disabilities. ON-LINE: Website: <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>

You are qualified to vote if: (1) You are a citizen of the United States; (2) You will be 18 years old on or before May 5th; (3) You will be a resident of Ohio for at least 30 days immediately before the election in which you want to vote; (4) You are not incarcerated (in prison) for a felony conviction under the laws of this state, another state or the US; (5) You have not been declared incompetent for voting purposes by a probate court.; (6) You have not been permanently disfranchised for violations of the election laws.

Last Day to register or make changes to your Voter Registration is: **Monday, April 6th**

Paulding County Board of Elections will be open from **8am to 9pm on Monday, April 6th**

Early Voting begins Tuesday, April 07, 2026

*** Note Extended Office Hours**
Tuesday, April 07 – Friday, April 10 * 8 am to 5 pm

Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 17 * 8 am to 5 pm
Monday, April 20 – Friday, April 24 * 8 am to 5 pm
Monday, April 27 * 7:30 am to 7:30 pm
Tuesday, April 28 * 7:30 am to 8:30 pm
Wednesday, April 29 – Friday, May 1 * 7:30 am to 7:30 pm

Saturday, May 02 * 8 am to 4 pm
Sunday, May 03 * 1 pm to 5 pm * **Early Voting Ends-Closes @ 5 pm**

No Voting ANYWHERE on Monday, May 4th

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, May 05, 2025 • Hours: 6:30 AM to 7:30 PM @ your Voting Location

Voting Locations:
Auglaize Twp @ Auglaize Fire Department, 21050 SR 637, Defiance

Benton / Harrison Twps. Payne Village @ Payne American Legion Hall, 229 N Main, Payne

Brown Twp. Oakwood / Melrose Villages @ Oakwood Fire & EMS Station, 201 N Sixth, Oakwood

Carryall / Crane Twps. Antwerp/Cecil Villages @ First Baptist Church, 5482 Rd 424, Antwerp

Jackson Twp & Broughton Village @ Jackson Township House, 9992 Rd 131, Paulding

Blue Creek / Latty / Washington Twps. Grover Hill Village @ Wayne Trace HS, 4915 US 127, Haviland

Emerald / Paulding Twps. Latty Village / Paulding V1, V2, V3 @ Extension Bldg., 503 Fairground Dr. Paulding

If you have any questions, please call the Board of Elections at **419-399-8230** or email us at paulding@sos.state.oh.us

PAULDING SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM EXCELS AT BOWLING GREEN REGIONAL



Pictured above is the PHS Science Olympiad team: (back) Aleah Matty, Mallory Fisher, Jack Schweller, Hunter Harwell, and Tessa Metcalf; (middle) Vivi Myers, Esther Lemieux, and Lucy Porter; (front) Jakob Elkins and Jonah Anders.



3rd place Regional winners for Astronomy: Mallory Fisher and Tessa Metcalf.



5th place Regional winners for Astronomy: Mallory Fisher and Hunter Harwell.

Congratulations to the Paulding High School Science Olympiad team for a great showing Saturday at the Regional Competition held at Bowling Green State University.

sity.

Top ten place earners included:

10th place: Lucy Porter and Aleah Matty in Dynamic Planet

10th place: Jack Schweller and Vivi Myers in Materials Science

9th place: Hunter Harwell and Esther LeMieux in Rocks and Minerals

9th place: Hunter Harwell and Tessa Metcalf in Codebusters

8th place: Hunter Harwell and Jack Schweller in Electric Vehicle

7th place: Jakob Elkins and Jonah Anders in Robot Tour

7th place: Aleah Matty, Esther Lemieux, Lucy Porter in Experimental Design

7th place: Vivi Myers and Aleah Matty in Disease Detectives

Regional Medalists included:

5th place medalists: Hunter Harwell and Mallory Fisher in Chem Lab

3rd place medalists: Tessa Metcalf and Mallory Fisher in Astronomy

PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL 3rd NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

SENIORS:

4.0 - Grady Barton, Kaitlynn Breedlove, Lucy Breier, Grace Cantu, Makayla Carr, Delaney Dachenhaus, Landen Danberry, Lilian Daniels, Mallory Fisher, Jackson Griffith, Jacob Harris, Gerald Hartzell, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Colten Hunt, Molly Iler, Jackson Laker, Isabelle Lamb, Aleah Matty, Renee McCabe, Tessa Metcalf, Addison Pease, Thad Schneider, Xander Schwab, Jack Schweller, Sheyenne Shepherd, Addison Shull, Laila Stiltner

3.5-3.99 - Jaylin Born, Xenia Casiano, Miguel Martinez, Damien Peffley, Edwin Perez Escobar, Hope Peters

3.0-3.49 - Katherine Burtch, Alexander Kuckuck, Samantha Leal, Leticia Mendoza, Blake Rhonehouse

JUNIORS:

4.0 - Anija Acevedo, Destiny Aldred, Remington Boroff, Isabella Burtch, Max Daeger, Kayleigh Dunham, Jayla Griffith, Reina Kleman, Mariah Klopfenstein, Mackenzie Leatherman, Esther Lemieux, Camdyn Manz, Kate Manz, Myrria Manz, Landyn Moore, Vivienne Myers, Estie Pease, Lucy Porter,

Leonel Reyes, Tori Schlatter, Cadence Schwab, Lily Speelman, Audrey Stoller, Darcy Taylor

3.5-3.99 - London Ametewee, Emmet Barnes, Olivia Breier, Avery Cooper, Landon Dasher, Olivia McCrory, Gannon Parrett, Skylar Ruby, Lailah Smith

3.0-3.49 - Milee George, Quinlyn Gonzales, Brody Lindsey, Achilles Mead, Eli Pessefall, Kolton Shomsky, Jasmine Smith

SOPHOMORES:

4.0 - Annabelle Ametewee, Addison Arend, Presley Barnes, Lela Brownell, Kinzley Collard, Carly Font, Andrew Goyings, Taylor Hogans, Quinton Laker, Ava Leatherman, Graham Miller, Gabriella Mullins, Levi Ray, Gabriella Stork, Miley Vanhorn Laney, Alayna White

3.5-3.99 - Nicholas Baughman, Coehen Benard, Zaine Bidlack, Sophia Booher, Phenox Clements, Chloe Coombs, Rylee Cox, Jack Daeger, Billie Dix, Parker Egnor, Kyler Foor, Tyler Goyings, Addyson Gribble, Jarret Griffith, Easton Griffiths, Emily Hartzell, Delaney Johanns, Alivia Kingen, Kaydence Kuckuck, Cameron Lambert, Gannon Landers, Maleah Leslie, Magdiel Lopez Santiago, Jason Manz, Tyson Manz, Adrianna Mead, Miracle Omonayin, Holly Peffley, Civil Pumphrey, Delaney Scott, Eva 10 Shull, Dylan 10 Weible

3.0-3.49 - Giselle Arend, Ella Kate Barker, Zachary Barton, Trevor Durham, Anabel Martinez, Olivia Miles, Nicholas Schlueter, Dallas Schuchart, Nicole Vielma, Tristen Vorlicky, Abigail Wharry, Cameron Williams, Taryn Wolford, Owen Workman

FRESHMEN:

4.0 - Cora Agler, Karli Breedlove, Ingrid Escobar, Aspen Grace, Wesley Grindstaff, Rooney Gutierrez Cortes, Adalynne Halter, Lily Leatherman, Brynlee Mangette, Allison Manz, Chase Manz, Makenna Manz, Jordyn Nagy, Evelyn Reyes, Nolan Schlatter, Shohawna Shepherd, Lily Steingass, Owen Stoller, Sage Stork, Audrey Trejo Marin, Harley Troyer

3.5-3.99 - Makenna Adams, Jonah Anders, Paisley Bartley, Daniella Borland, Madison Clark, Sean Elder, Mason Gutierrez, Charity Kochel, Kendall Kohart, Gracie Leal, Kevin Lin, Lincoln Manz, Mason Parker, Kristen Rader, Elliette Roughton, Jezaih Seba Fuentes, Kinlee Sherry, Kendyl Sunday

3.0-3.49 - Parker Bates, Paityn Dobbelaere, Savannah Harris, Kendal Hodge, Brynley Manz, Landon Manz, Ivan Martinez, Jady Vanvlerah

LAWN CARE FOR YOU, THE HOMEOWNER

Spring is officially here. It's time to start shaping up the yard, and your lawn is a big part of that. Now is a great time to start preparing your lawn with an early spring fertilizer to attain and maintain that nice green look in your lawn all season long. Jim and I will be writing articles throughout the growing season to help you keep your lawn looking great.

In order to give your lawn an excellent boost this spring, we recommend an early treatment of lawn fertilizer for a strong green up. You may combine this with

FEASBY SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



Audrey Feasby was the featured presenter at this week's Kiwanis meeting, appearing as a guest of member Harvey Hyman.

Feasby, a licensed beautician with 18 years of experience and owner of Small Town Bliss for the past 12 years, spoke about her growing role as a travel advisor with Travelmation. In addition to her work in the beauty industry, she has developed a passion for helping families plan meaningful vacations.

Through her travel services, Feasby assists families in

organizing trips of all sizes, offering guidance throughout the entire planning process at no additional cost. She emphasized her commitment to helping clients create lasting memories through stress-free travel experiences.

While Feasby specializes in Disney destinations, she provides travel planning services for a wide range of locations.

For more information about travel planning services, community members are encouraged to contact Audrey Feasby directly.

CENTER FOR CHILD AND FAMILY ADVOCACY RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE



Congratulations to the Center for Child and Family Advocacy for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. The Moose holds a Donor Advised Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella and this grant will be

used the SART Clinic for Northwest Ohio. Pictured with the grant check are (L to R) Tiffany Vocke - Forensic Nurse at the SART Clinic, Sharla Young - Program Coordinator at the SART Clinic and Roberta Phlipot - Moose Lodge Treasurer.

an annual weed preventative to help keep those unwanted grassy weeds (such as crabgrass) out of your lawn. We also suggest getting a PH test for the soil to determine

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

KLOPFENSTEIN REPAIR

AUTO • TRUCK • FARM • INDUSTRIAL

Major & Minor Repairs • Complete Vehicle Maintenance
AC Service & Repair
Diesel Service • Complete Engine Rebuilding
DOT Inspections • ASE Certified Staff

Tim & Victor Klopfenstein 19718 Notestine Road
657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN AT U.S. 24 & I-469



U.S. 24 PATCHING; I-469 ON-RAMP CONSTRUCTION
 CREWS PATCHING IN BOTH DIRECTIONS OF U.S. 24 BETWEEN LINDEN RD. AND DOYLE RD.
 ON-RAMP RECONSTRUCTION FROM EB ROSE AVE./U.S. 24 TO SB I-469. TRAFFIC SHOULD USE LOOP RAMPS TO ACCESS SB I-469

ALLEN COUNTY, Ind. – The Indiana Department of Transportation announces traffic restrictions at the junction of I-469 and U.S. 24/Rose Avenue for construction. Starting on or after March 23, crews will be working on U.S. 24 between Linden Road and Doyle Road. There will be alternating lane closures in both directions for patching work. Crews will also close the on-ramp from eastbound Rose Ave./U.S. 24 to southbound I-469 for reconstruction.

Traffic needing to access southbound I-469 should utilize the loop ramps. Work in the area is expected to be complete by the end of April. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change. INDOT encourages drivers to consider safety for all by slowing down, using extra caution and driving distraction-free when traveling in and around all work zones.

whether your soil could be too acidic or too alkaline and to correct your PH with soil amending products.

are found in the air and water that surrounds us. In a process called photosynthesis, green plants use energy from the sun to change carbon dioxide, from the air, and hydrogen from the water, into sugars. These sugars become the means for making the carbohydrates, fats, oils, and proteins that are the building blocks of life. Since green plants get their carbon, hydrogen and oxygen from the air and water, there is little that man can do to control how much of these nutrients a green plant can make or use. We and all of life on earth are living off of the green plant for our food supply.

Why fertilize in early spring? Grass and other plants are emerging from the dormant stage. Once the soil temperature reaches 55 degrees, the soil microbes will start to become active and the grass will green up. In order to maintain a lush healthy green lawn, grass needs the proper nutrients in order to grow strong and vibrant. Giving your lawn a high-quality slow release fertilizer in early spring will feed your lawn over the next 8 to 12 weeks and set up your yard nicely for the rest of the growing season.

Choosing the right fertilizer is important. The lawn lives in the soil surrounded by air, water, living things and humus. In the soil, the fundamental physical, chemical and biological processes necessary for lawn grass growth takes place. For a lawn grass plant to be healthy it needs nutrients. These nutrients are divided into two main groups, the non-mineral and the mineral.

The non-mineral nutrients are hydrogen, oxygen and carbon. These nutrients

There are thirteen mineral nutrients, which come from the soil that are important for lawn grass plant growth. The mineral nutrients are divided into two groups: macronutrients and micronutrients. Macronutrients include nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium and sulfur. Grass plants use these macronutrients for their growth and survival and not all of these nutrients are found in lawn fertilizers. Micronutrients are essential elements for lawn grass plant growth, which are needed in smaller quantities. The micronutrients are boron, copper, iron, chloride, manganese, molybdenum and zinc. Recycling of organic material, such as grass clippings, is an excellent way to provide micronutrients. They are absorbed by lawn grass plants from the soil and water by means of their root hairs. There are not always enough of these minerals present in the soil for a lawn

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

Aderman
 FAMILY DENTISTRY
NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS!
Dr. Andrew Aderman, DDS
 110 N High St, PO Box 548 • Oakwood, OH 45873
 419-594-3345 • adermanfamilydentistry@gmail.com

Classified Ads

Sell it in the Classifieds!

Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.

Bold is \$1.00 additional.

Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net

P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813

Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!

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

MOWER LIFT FOR SALE: Huskee HZR350 Lift for riding or zero turn lawn mower. \$650bo. Call 419-258-0127

MENARDS REBATE Address mailing labels: \$3 sheet of 30. 419-258-2000

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 10-12

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

THE HEALING HEARTH by Angel: Salves, Soaps, Beard Oils, Essential Oil Rollers, Luffas. Text 419-258-0656 for more info.

DEWALT PORTABLE POWER STATION DCB1800 4 battery Charger/inverter - \$339. Call 419-258-0127

CLASSIFIEDS DEADLINE IN WBN: FRIDAYS 12P!

grass plant to produce maximum healthy growth. This is why we fertilize the lawn. We also fertilize to supply nitrogen to stimulate lawn growth; however, this as in the case of mineral nutrients, is done to supply extra nutrients for lawn growth stimulation.

Pre-emergent controls usually last for approximately four months. When applying a pre-emergent in early spring, you may need to apply another application of pre-emergent in late spring to prevent crabgrass from coming up in late summer.

High-quality lawn fertilizers feed evenly throughout an eight to twelve week period of time giving your lawn the right amount of food at the right time. Determining the amount and kind of fertilizer you need for your lawn will greatly depend upon your soil's condition and PH level to provide the nutrients your grass needs.

Also, if you are planning on thatching this spring, do not apply any pre-emergent controls before you have thatched. Thatching or raking will break the barrier that a pre-emergent control provides and makes it useless.

In early spring, you can also prevent grassy weeds from coming into your lawn later in the growing season. These are annual weeds that sprout from seeds that grow into mature plants throughout the growing season, and then drop their own seeds before dying... which provides another crop for the following year. These annual weeds include crabgrass, goosegrass, barnyardgrass, dallisgrass, quackgrass, and bermudagrass.

When purchasing your fertilizer, you may want to think about getting fertilizer for other times of the growing season so you'll be prepared to apply it at the appropriate time and able to enjoy your lawn for the entire growing season.

So how do I keep these weeds out of my yard? By using a pre-emergent weed control, you are creating a "protective barrier" on the lawn. The active ingredients are distributed throughout the lawn in early spring, before the annuals have begun to germinate. They lie in wait for the annual weed seeds to sprout. As germination begins, the young seedlings come in contact with the protective barrier and succumb to its controlling action.

Best wishes to you on a great lawn you can enjoy this year.

—Len Schrock
 Jonathan Green Lawn Care Consultant
 Grabill & Woodburn Hardware

However, these protective barriers also prevent any good grass seed from germinating. So if you are planning on seeding or overseeding any part of your lawn, do not use a pre-emergent control unless it is a control that specifically says you can seed.



The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Wildlife awarded 10,127 Fish Ohio pins to anglers who reeled in trophy fish among 26 different species in 2025. Well-known fisheries such as Lake Erie, Alum Creek Lake, Buckeye Lake, Caesar Creek Lake, Indian Lake, and Mosquito Creek Lake were among the most popular locations for Fish Ohio catches.

Pre-emergent controls should be applied in early spring. However, as a guide for all areas, the application should be made before dandelions are in the puffball stage...before lilacs bloom...or before forsythia drop.

ing qualifiers of four different species in the same year. Last year, 1,009 anglers were awarded a Master Angler pin. Since the Fish Ohio program began in 1976, more than 430,000 catches have been recognized. In 2026, the program celebrates its 50th anniversary.

A walleye that measures 28 inches from Lake Erie or 25 inches from inland lakes and rivers qualifies for Fish Ohio recognition.

A qualifying catch (<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources/fishohio-program>) for the program has specific length requirements based on the fish species. Applications for a Fish Ohio pin and minimum length requirements are found at fishohio.gov. The 2026 Fish Ohio pin features a channel catfish. The 2025 pin depicted a large-mouth bass on a bright green background.

Lake Erie had the most Fish Ohio submissions of all public waters in 2025 with 3,867 qualifying fish caught. Lake Erie is a terrific spot to catch a Fish Ohio-qualifying walleye and many other species. The Walleye Capital of the World has a strong population lake-wide. In 2025, anglers submitted 1,326 Fish Ohio walleye that measured a minimum of 28 inches long.

Lake Erie anglers reeled in smallmouth bass, steelhead trout, and yellow perch of impressive sizes in 2025, and reported 608 Fish Ohio channel catfish. Find Lake Erie fishing resources at wildohio.gov. (<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources/fishing-lake-erie>)

Inland waters Fish Ohio records show that channel catfish, saugeye, crappie, and smallmouth bass are four of the most popular sport fish in inland waters across the Buckeye State. In inland waters, a channel catfish longer than 26 inches, a saugeye longer than 21 inches, a crappie longer than 13 inches, or a smallmouth bass longer than 18 inches qualifies for Fish Ohio status.

Channel catfish Channel catfish grow large and consume a wide variety of foods, making them one of Ohio's most popular sport fish. The top three inland destinations for Fish Ohio channel catfish in 2025 were the Sandusky River, Mosquito Creek Lake, and the Maumee River.

Saugeye A hybrid between a walleye and a sauger, saugeye are stocked in more than 60 lakes by the Division of Wildlife. These fast-growing fish thrive in Ohio's inland waters and can be caught year-round, with 767 saugeye submitted to the Fish Ohio program in 2025. Inland lake anglers caught Fish Ohio saugeye most often in Indian Lake, Buckeye Lake, and Alum Creek Lake.

Saugeye are identified by the dark bars or vertical spots between the spines of

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

the first dorsal fin. They also have dark, oblong patches along their sides. They prey on gizzard shad and other small fish.

Crappie Black crappie and white crappie are abundant in Ohio. A black crappie has irregular blotches or spots along its sides, while a white crappie is distinguished by more uniform dark vertical stripes. Top Fish Ohio crappie destinations were Mosquito Creek Lake, Buckeye Lake, and Alum Creek Lake.

Crappies are often found near structures like drop-offs, points, creek beds, brush piles, and fallen trees. These feisty sport fish are often caught on light tackle.

Smallmouth bass Smallmouth bass are found in streams, rivers, and larger lakes across Ohio, and their reputation for fighting hard when hooked makes them an often-targeted sport fish. Ohio's top three inland waters for smallmouth bass in 2025 were the Great Miami River, Alum Creek Lake, and the Scioto River.

Smallmouth bass have dark vertical bars along their side with a brown or bronze colored background. Tube jigs, spinners, topwater poppers, and crankbaits on an ultralight spinning rod are great lure choices for smallmouths. Last year, 894 Fish Ohio smallmouth bass were reported from inland waters.

The Division of Wildlife has many resources available to assist anglers, including lake maps, fishing tips by species, and fishing forecasts. Many of these resources are available at your fingertips with the HuntFish OH mobile app (<https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/hunting-resources/hunt-fishoh-mobile-app>). Fishing regulations and an interactive fishing map (<https://gis.ohiodnr.gov/MapViewer/?config=Fishinglakes>) can be located with ease from any mobile device. Get started fishing with Wild Ohio Harvest (<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/education-training/wild-ohio-harvest-community/wild-ohio-harvest-community>), which provides online learning modules, in-person classes, recipes, and more.

For more information on fishing tips and forecasts, go to wildohio.gov (<https://ohiodnr.gov/discover-and-learn/safety-conservation/about-ODNR/wildlife>). Remember to purchase an Ohio license before fishing in public waters. An Ohio resident license is \$25. It is valid for one year from its purchase date and is required of all anglers ages 16 and older. Ohio residents can fish without a license during the state's Free Fishing Days on June 20-21, 2026.

IGNITE DANCE ACADEMY SHINES AT SEASON'S FIRST COMPETITION



Dancers from Ignite Dance Academy kicked off their competition season with an impressive showing at the Nexstar National Dance Competition in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The studio's mini team, junior team, and several soloists traveled to the event, bringing home multiple top awards and recognitions.

One of the standout performances of the weekend was the Competitive Junior Small Group routine "Good-bye Yellow Brick Road." The number earned a Platinum Plus rating, 1st Place in its category, and 3rd Overall. The routine also received a Golden Ticket and the Excellence in Choreography Award, highlighting the

strength of both the dancers and their creative direction.

The Competitive Petite Small Group performance "My Boyfriend's Back" also delivered an outstanding result. The routine received Platinum, 1st in Category, and 1st Overall, earning the title of Competitive Petite Regional Champion along with a Golden Ticket.

Ignite dancers also excelled in solo performances:

- Showcase Petite Solo "Anything But Love" performed by Adley received Platinum and placed 7th Overall.
- Elite Petite Solo "I Dreamed a Dream" performed by Juliet earned Platinum

Plus, 1st in Category, and 2nd Overall, along with a Power Pak invitation and the title 1st Runner-Up Elite Petite Miss Nexstar Fort Wayne.

- Showcase Junior Solo "Rich Girl" performed by Ivy received Platinum honors.
- Competitive Junior Solo "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" performed by Henley earned Platinum, 1st in Category, 10th Overall in the Superstar Competitive Division, and a Power Pak invitation.
- Competitive Junior Solo "There You'll Be" performed by Paisley received Platinum, 1st in Category, and the Beauty & Grace Award.

PAULDING PUTNAM MEMBERS DONATE \$9,854 TO 7 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS



The Paulding FFA received a \$1,500 donation from Paulding Putnam's Operation Round Up program to purchase hygiene items for the Panther's Hygiene Care Closet.

PAULDING, OH — Members of Paulding Putnam recently donated \$9,854 to seven local charities and community projects through the Operation Round Up program.

80% of members rounded up their electric bill and donated to this fund, Paulding Putnam has provided more than \$788,673 to northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana communities since 2010.

Participating members round up their monthly electric bill to the next dollar, with the extra pennies being used to help fund charities and groups in their communities. Each quarter, the funds are dispensed to local causes that applied for funding.

The most recent donation recipients include:

- Leaders of Tomorrow 4-H Club: \$1,212 to purchase club t-shirts
- Ottoville Fire Association: \$2,142 to purchase multigas detector meters

- Paulding FFA: \$1,500 to purchase hygiene items for the Panther's Hygiene Care Closet
- Putnam County 4-H Council: \$500 to purchase t-shirts for all third graders in Putnam County attending Farm Safety Day
- United Way of Van Wert: \$500 to support the Rivals United event
- YMCA of Van Wert County: \$1,000 to renovate the kids game room
- YWCA of Van Wert County: \$3,000 to purchase a new security system for the facility

Operation Round Up was started in 2010 as a way to give back to Paulding Putnam's communities.

Organizations can apply for Operation Round Up assistance by contacting Paulding Putnam's Marketing and Communications Manager, Samantha Kuhn, at skuhn@ppec.coop or visiting www.ppec.coop/operation-

Studio owner Allison Banks said the competition marked an exciting start to the season and praised the dancers for their hard work and dedication.

Ignite Dance Academy will soon be preparing for the future as well. Auditions for the 2026-2027 competition season will be held May 23. Dancers interested in joining the highly competitive team can learn more by liking Ignite Dance Academy's Facebook page, calling 419-258-0852, or visiting ignitedanceacademyohio.com for additional information.

round. If you want to participate by rounding up your monthly bill, call Paulding Putnam's office at 800-686-2357. The average member's donation is about \$6 per year.

HICKSVILLE LIBRARY, HUBER TO HOST JINGLE-WRITING CONTEST

Think you have what it takes to pen a catchy jingle? Hicksville's Johnson

Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., in conjunction with the Huber Opera House and Civic Center, will host a Jingle-writing contest April 1-22.

Write a quick jingle just as Terry Ryan's mom, Evelyn, would have done in The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio. Your jingle should share the Huber Opera House's story in just a line or two, and you could win a popcorn bucket of

goodies and tickets to the Huber.

Jingles can be sent via email to drenollet@defiancelibrary.org or dropped off at Johnson Memorial Library during open hours.

The winner will be announced at the Huber on April 25 just before the 7 p.m. showing of "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio."

All ages are welcome to participate!

FOUR DAYS. ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION.

DATES & HOURS

Tuesday, April 14th 7:00 am - 9:00 am
 Wednesday, April 15th 7:00 am - 9:00 am
 Thursday, April 16th 7:00 am - 9:00 am
 Friday, April 17th 7:00 am - 9:00 am

LOCATION
 Black Swamp Nature Center
 753 Fairground Drive • Paulding, Ohio 45879

AVAILABLE BLOOD TESTING

Comprehensive Health Panel	\$30.00
Thyroid Screening	\$15.00
Hepatitis C Screening	\$15.00
Hemoglobin A1C	\$15.00
PSA	\$20.00
Vitamin D	\$20.00

Registration available the day of the fair or pre-registration packets are available at Paulding County Hospital's outpatient offices, lobby and online at pauldingcountyhospital.com. Cash and check accepted the day of the fair. Credit Card accepted ONLY when pre-registered.

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

1035 West Wayne Street • Paulding, Ohio 45879 • 419.399.4080 • pauldingcountyhospital.com

Sweeten up your Spring and Easter!

Sweet Shop

THURSDAY MARCH 26 4:30 TO 6:30 PM

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL
 601 FLATROCK DR. PAULDING, OH 45879

Caring & Sharing FOOD PANTRY

All proceeds benefit Caring & Sharing Food Bank