



# The WEST BEND NEWS

www.westbendnews.net



VOLUME 22 - ISSUE 14

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

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2026

## \$3,500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS, BILL CREDITS AWARDED AT PAULDING PUTNAM'S 90TH ANNUAL MEETING BROADCAST

### BOARD MEMBERS RE-ELECTED

**District 1 - Joe Kohnen**      **District 6 - Dr. John Saxton**      **District 9 - Dr. Ron Black**

PAULDING, OH — Paulding Putnam's 90th Annual Meeting of Members premiered on Facebook and YouTube at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 28, 2026. More than 3,600 viewers tuned in to watch the meeting for cop updates and a recap of 2025.

Board election results were announced, with each serving a three-year term. All three trustees were re-elected by affirmation, as no other candidates submitted petitions.

- District 1 (Marion, Madison, Monroe, Preble, and Union townships in Allen and Adams Counties, Indiana): Incumbent Joseph Kohnen was re-elected.

- District 6 (Auglaize,

Brown, Latty, and Washington townships in Paulding County, Ohio; Defiance and Highland townships in Defiance County, Ohio): Incumbent Dr. John Saxton was re-elected.

- District 9 (Sugar Creek, Pleasant, Union, Ottawa, and Riley townships in Putnam County, Ohio): Incumbent Dr. Ronald Black was re-elected.

Board Chairman Adam Schnipke highlighted \$4 million in electric system improvements completed in 2025, including rebuilding 20 miles of aging line, replacing poles, and strengthening infrastructure to enhance reliability. He also noted the cop's ongoing efforts to manage costs and protect members

from market volatility.

Much of his report focused on the cooperative's expanding fiber internet service, which is already making a meaningful impact across the service territory. He shared several testimonials from members, including remote worker Tammy Clark of Paulding, who called Paulding Putnam's fiber internet a "gamechanger." Tim and Robin Worline in Continental said their new internet plan gives them "10 times the speed for free compared to their old provider."

"These connections are opening doors for remote work, education, and daily life," Schnipke said. "For many

(Continued on Page 4)

## 2026 MAY BALLOT LANGUAGE FOR PEVS

The Paulding Exempted Village School Board of Education and District Administration have been informed that the 0.75% income tax levy on the May 5, 2026 ballot currently states that it is for "a continuing period of time"; however, it should be for a

five-year period.

The Board of Elections has been made aware of the issue and is working on timely corrections for all voters. Please do not complete any ballots that incorrectly refer to a continuing levy and wait for a corrected ballot to be issued from the Board of Elections.

Please contact Mr. Etzler, Superintendent, at 419-399-

4656 if you have any questions.

## FREE TICKETS FOR "THE DEFIANCE PRIZE WINNER" MOVIE NIGHT AT THE HUBER OPERA HOUSE

Call or stop in the Huber now to get your FREE tickets and enjoy an evening celebrating our local connection with Ohio Goes to the Movies on April 25. The evening will start off with a red-carpet welcome at 5:30, followed by a 6:00 reception featuring hors d'oeuvres from Grant's catering. Reception Tickets are limited for the reception hour but you may also attend the movie screening for free. The movie starts at 7:00. Prior to the main feature movie, a taped interview with Terry Ryan will be presented by the Johnson Memorial Library and the winner of their Jingle Contest will be announced. Come and enjoy this very special event at the Huber on April 25. Movie only tickets are also available now and should be available at the door on April 25. But you will want to get your reception tickets now!

The Huber Opera House is honored to be an official host venue for Ohio Goes to the Movies (OGTTM), a signature event of America 250-Ohio. The Huber will present its OGTTM event on April 25, 2026, joining communities in all 88 counties in celebrating

## EF-1 TORNADO, FLOODING, AND DAMAGING WINDS STRIKE REGION IN LAST WEEK'S STORMS



Powerlines fell victim to the March 31st storms as these did near Van Wert, OH.

Severe storms moved through northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio from the evening of March 31 into the early morning hours of April 1, bringing heavy rain, damaging winds, and at least one confirmed tornado to the region.

The National Weather Service confirmed an EF-1 tornado touched down near Hicksville, Ohio, between approximately 7:09 and 7:11 p.m. The tornado produced peak winds of 95 miles per

hour and traveled a path of 2.71 miles with a width of 25 yards. Damage in the area was consistent with low-end EF-1 strength, with reports of minor structural damage and debris scattered across rural properties.

In addition to the tornado, much of the region experienced straight-line winds estimated between 60 and 80 miles per hour. These damaging gusts downed power lines at both the northern and

(Continued on Page 3)

Ohio's impact on the film industry. The movie the Huber has chosen to show is "The Defiance Prize Winner" which was crafted by Terry Ryan, originally from Defiance and starring Woody Harrelson, originally from Lebanon, Ohio. "We can't wait to bring our community together for this statewide celebration of storytelling, creativity, and Ohio's film heritage with their red-carpet walk-in, a reception, and a taped interview with the author as pre-show highlights," says Chris Feichter, Director of Operations.

Ohio Goes to the Movies is a collaborative statewide initiative highlighting Ohio's role in cinema—from films shot in the state to Ohio-born stars, directors, and crew. Visitors can explore more at Ohio-GoestotheMovies.org. About

America 250-Ohio. In 2026, the United States will celebrate its Semiquincentennial, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Each state is planning its own commemoration of the nation's founding and its citizens' contributions. Ohio's celebration will highlight how Ohioans have shaped America's past, present, and future. Learn more at America250-Ohio.org.

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## Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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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

April 8

- PC Republican Women Committee meeting @ Fiesta Habaneros, 5p

April 9

- PCED Career Day @ PC OSU Ext. Bldg, Paulding, 9a-12p

April 10-11

- CC Banks Presents Chicago @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 7:30p
- Out of Sight, Out of Murder @ Huber, Dinner, 6p; Show, 7p

April 11

- LifeWise Antwerp's Evening of Impact Fundraiser @ Grant's Catering, 6p
- Out of Sight... Our of Murder @ Huber, 6p
- PC Library's Writers' Conference @ Paulding Library, 8:30a-4p

April 12

- Out of Sight, Out of Murder @ Huber, 2p

April 14

- PC Retired Teachers Assoc. Meeting @ Paulding Pancake House, 11:30a
- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p

April 16

- Blood Drive @ First Church of Christ, Hicksville, 1-6p
- Garage Books & Used Goods Event @ GH Library.



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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**HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

We have an Announcement about the **MAY 5, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION**

The Wayne Trace Voting Location which covers the following precincts:  
Grover Hill, Haviland & Scott Villages  
Blue Creek, Latty & Washington Townships  
has to be **MOVED** to the **VFW in Grover Hill**  
111 S. Main St. Grover Hill, OH 45849  
Call 419-399-8230 for additional information

**OBITUARIES**

Tsafarides, Jay Hanenkratt, Loraine Comfort, Van (Lisa) Hanenkratt, Corinne (Mike) Lamb and many nieces, nephews & friends.  
Don was also preceded in death by his brother, Richard "Dick" Benschneider.  
Viewing is Thursday, April 2nd from 4-7 PM with Masonic Service at 7 PM at Dooley Funeral

Home, Payne.  
Service is Friday, April 3rd at 10:30 AM with viewing one hour prior at the funeral home.  
He will be laid to rest in Wiltsie Cemetery.  
Memorials are to Elara Caring Hospice or the Payne Fire & EMS.  
Fund memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com.

**WOW 2026 COMING TO PAULDING**

God's Word calls us to "worship in spirit and truth" in John 4:24. Worship can be defined as "extravagant respect, or admiration for, or devotion to an object of esteem".  
As Christians we worship our Lord in many ways, but the most common way is through songs of praise and adoration. Did you know there are other ways to offer up your worship to God? Some other areas are in the family, in the arts, and in the spirit.

Branch Christian Fellowship in Paulding Ohio would like to invite ladies to come and join other women in the community to learn how we can go deeper in worship. There will be a time of praise and worship and 4 speakers will be talking on 4 different areas of worship.

Branch Christian Fellowship at 109 N. Main Street in Paulding invites ladies to come and spend the morning learning more about worship. It starts at 9AM and is until 12:30 on April 18th. This is a free event and a light brunch will be provided but registration is requested. You can register at branchchristianfellowship.com on the home page under the event, Women of Worship. We look forward to seeing everyone and learning about worshipping our Lord together.



**Jackie Boroff**

**Jackie Boroff** is a wife, a mother, a grandmother and a woman of prayer. She started communicating with God after she took the invitation to be born again when she was in the seventh grade. She was married to her best friend, Scott in 1986. She has been pursuing the Father, serving with her husband as prayer leaders at Empower Church, Hicksville Ohio. Jackie will be speaking on worship in prayer and we look forward to hearing what she has to share with us.



**Kimberly Wyse**

**Kimberly Wyse** is a writer, speaker, and homeschool educator who brings a message of grounded, resilient faith for women living full, demanding lives. As a farm wife and special needs mother, she understands what it means to hold responsibility in one hand and unanswered questions in the other—and still choose to trust God. Kimberly is the author of "Looking Up When Life Looks Down", and her speaking weaves together Scripture, story, and practical truth in a way that feels both deeply personal and immediately applicable. Kimberly will be speaking on worship in the spirit. Be sure to come and hear what God has laid on her heart.



**Jackie Boroff**

**Tracy Koenig** is a Paulding Exempted Village Schools graduate and a Taylor University Fort Wayne graduate, with a bachelor's degree in Pastoral Ministries. She and her husband, Josh, they have been married for 22 years, have two sons: Jeremiah and Isaiah. She has been a homeschool mom for the last 14 years and she is the Program Director of Life-Wise Paulding Exempted, LifeWise Wayne Trace and LifeWise Antwerp. Her family attends Free Christian Church in Continental where she serves as the Financial Director, Mission Trip Coordinator, and am a member of the Technology Team. "As a lifelong Paulding County resident and Christian for 27 years, my passion is to share the gospel in whatever ways God allows." You will enjoy hearing what Tracy has to share about worship in the family.  
**Kim Mason** has been a life long resident of Van Wert Co, graduation from Lincolnview HS and then receiving her B. S. Degree in Music Education with a voice emphasis from The Defiance College. Kim taught music, choir and psychology at Delphos City



**Kim Mason**

Schools for 14 years. In 1992 Kim joined the Gospel group Trinity and began traveling and singing throughout the country. This led to her decision in 2004 to step down from teaching as she could feel God pulling her in another direction. In the fall of 2004 Kim took a job with CHP Home Care and Hospice in Van Wert and has now been with the company for over 22 years. She has many roles with the company but now serves as the Event/Volunteer Coordinator and Hospice Musician. Kim continues to travel and sing with Trinity and also serves as a director on the Van Wert County Agricultural Society/Fairboard. We look forward to hearing what Kim has to share about worship in song.

**TOLEDO OPERA ON WHEELS RETURNS TO DEFIANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY**

[DEFIANCE] - Join Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., for a night at the opera.

The Toledo Opera's "Opera on Wheels" will visit the library on April 20 at 6:00 p.m. to present "The Bear Who Couldn't Fish." The story is based on a Lakota legend titled "Mato." In it, a young bear on his own for the first time learns about the Great Lakes and their surroundings, as well as the importance of listening.

The program is free and geared to children and families. No tickets or registration are needed. The Toledo Opera on Wheels' visit to Defiance is sponsored by the Friends of Defiance Public Library.

For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

**VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE TO HOST VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT**

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is proud to invite its dedicated volunteers to a special Volunteer Appreciation Night on Friday, April 10th. This one-of-a-kind event is a heartfelt thank-you to the men and women who give their time, talent, and passion to keep the magic of live theatre alive in the Van Wert community.  
The evening kicks off with a guided theatre tour from 6 to 7 PM, giving attendees a rare and exciting chance to see the theatre like never before. Whether you have volunteered for years or are just getting involved, this tour offers a fascinating look at the inner workings that bring every production to life.

**What You Will Explore**

During the tour, guests will have the opportunity to step into the spaces that make every show possible. Highlights of the behind-the-scenes experience include:

Light and Sound Booth: Discover the technical wizardry behind every spotlight and sound cue that sets the

**Scripture of the Week**

"fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

— Hebrews 12:2

**JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD**



Here are some key points from John 11:

1. The Death of Lazarus: The chapter begins with the news that Lazarus, a close friend of Jesus, is seriously ill. Jesus stays where He is for two more days before heading to Bethany, where Lazarus lives.

2 Jesus' Conversation with His Disciples Before going to Judea, Jesus explains that Lazarus's illness will not lead to death but is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.

3 Jesus Comforts Martha and Mary: After Lazarus dies, Martha and Mary, his sisters, express their sorrow and disappointment that Jesus did not arrive in time to heal him. They both proclaim their faith in Jesus as the Messiah.

4. The Power of Jesus: Jesus tells Martha that He is the resurrection and the life, promis-

ing that whoever believes in Him will live even after death. This statement emphasizes His divine authority over life and death.

5. The Emotional Response: Jesus experiences deep emotion at the tomb of Lazarus, leading to one of the shortest verses in the Bible: "Jesus wept." This shows His compassion and empathy for the grieving family.

6. The Miracle of Raising Lazarus: Jesus commands that the stone be rolled away from the tomb and, despite objections, He prays to the Father and calls Lazarus out of the tomb. Lazarus emerges, alive, showcasing Jesus' power over death.

7. Impact of the Miracle: The miraculous act leads many Jews who were present to believe in Jesus, while others report the event to the Pharisees, setting the stage for further conflict between Jesus and the religious leaders.

8. Foreshadowing of Jesus' Own Death: The chapter sets a pivotal moment in the narrative that foreshadows Jesus' own death and resurrection, highlighting the themes of belief, resurrection, and eternal life.

These key points underscore the themes of faith, Jesus' power, and his love for humanity, particularly for us believers. Thank you, Lord!

Peace and Love,  
—Pastor Dwayne

mood for each performance.

Costuming: Step into the world of wardrobe and see how costumes are created and maintained to transform performers into their characters.

Set Building and Design: Go behind the curtain to see how the theatre's talented crew constructs and designs the stunning sets that bring each story to life.

Marketing: Get a look at how the theatre spreads the word and connects with the community to fill seats season after season.

**Trivia Night to Cap the Evening**

Following the tour, the fun continues with a lively trivia competition beginning at 7 PM. It is the perfect way to end a memorable evening, connecting with fellow volunteers and celebrating the com-

munity that makes the Van Wert Civic Theatre such a beloved institution.

Volunteers are encouraged to bring a friend along for the evening. The more the merrier, and it is a wonderful opportunity to introduce someone new to the theatre and everything it has to offer.

**How to RSVP**

Seating is limited, so volunteers are asked to RSVP as soon as possible. To reserve your spot, contact Terry Plas at (419) 203-1553. The Van Wert Civic Theatre is located at 118 S. Race St, Van Wert, OH.

Do not miss this incredible opportunity to go behind the scenes and see the Van Wert Civic Theatre in a whole new light. This is a night you will not want to miss.



**PAYNE, OH:**

**Donald E. Benschneider**, 86, of Payne, passed away on Sunday, March 29, 2026 at his home.

Don was born in Ft. Wayne, Indiana on June 11, 1939, son of the late Ervin & Lucile (Overmyer) Benschneider.

Don devoted his life to hard work, beginning with a lifelong career in farming and in partnership in Wildcat Creek Farms. On December 13, 1981, he married the love of his life, Elaine (Hanenkratt), and together they built a life filled with love and many happy years. As a young man he enjoyed working at Van Wert airport, owning his own plane and instructing. Deeply committed to his community, Don served as Mayor of Payne and contributed his leadership to numerous organizations, including the Farm Credit, Countrymark, Inc., Landmark, Inc., Paulding Landmark, NCBA, CBI, Buckeye State Mutual Insurance, Orange Harbor Cooperative. He was also a dedicated member of the Payne Chamber of Commerce and the County Farm Bureau. In his free time, Don enjoyed snowmobiling trips in Michigan and traveling to Florida. Above all, he cherished time with his family, especially cheering on his grandchildren at their sporting events. Don will be remembered as a kind-hearted, soft-spoken man and a true role model to all who knew him.  
Don will be sadly missed by his wife, Elaine; daughters, Terri (Lyle) Ulrey of Van Wert & Lanette (Jarrod) Dossen of Fort Wayne; grandchildren, Chris (Kali) Ulrey, parents of Sazi & Ophelia, Nicholas (Miranda) Ulrey parents of Locklin & Kollins, Blake (Loren) Dossen, parents of Bastian, Jude, Margaret, & one of the way, Branson (Karson) Dossen, parents of Beau & and one of the way & Bree Dossen.  
In-laws, Phil & Betty Hanenkratt; Mike (Myra) Hanenkratt, Jill (George)



John W. Den Herder, Funeral Director  
William J. Den Herder, Funeral Director

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**THE LIST MAKER**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**  
by: Nancy Whitaker

I have almost always been someone who makes a list for everything. List making seems to make tasks shorter and easier. I do lists for groceries, Christmas gifts, what routines I need to follow on a daily basis, medicines, Dr appts, music gigs, songs, food to serve at each holiday, work hours, what stores have the best prices on various items and things to take on a trip, lists of restaurants and a list of what clothes I want to wear the next day.

It's not new for me to make a list because actually I think I have always had a list. One of the things that's frustrating is getting to a store or going shopping and find you forgot your lists of things to remember.

You can look at a list as a tool for organization or just because you are afraid you might forget to pay a bill or pick up dry cleaning.

Years ago when my children were growing up I always gave them a work list to do after school. With me and their dad at work, it made it nice to have some things done after working all day.

My kids did work lists for .25 cents a week. You probably don't believe it, but that quarter meant a lot back then.

When the older girls were in junior high they had lists such as: throw a load of white clothes in the washer.

Then I might have them get potatoes ready to bake for supper, feed and water the dog, make sure their younger brother and sister changed their school clothes, walk up to post office and get the mail and wash any dirty dishes which are lying around.

Then years later when I was in the process of moving, the kids found some old work lists in a drawer from the 70s and said, "Wow mom! We had some big work lists." If I had children today I would

probably still make work lists.

Some of my everyday lists looks the same. Of course, the first thing I have on my list is to make my coffee. I don't think I could make a list unless I drank coffee first.

Now, the second thing I need to do is take my medicines. With my age, I do have several meds to take, so I write it on my list.

The next thing I do is pay my bills and take care of any other financial needs. I put this on my list each day, and if I don't have to do it, I still write it down.

Then I think of doing



dishes, sweeping and some household chores that may or might need done, but yes or no they still are on my list.

I check another list I made to see if I have to play piano anyplace that day. If I do, I write it down on my daily list.

Do I need groceries? Have I got anything for dinner? So then I go to the freezer to see what I have available. After I check, I write it on my list.

This probably seems mundane to you but after I complete my list, I think I have accomplished what I set out to do each day. It is said that after you complete a list, it makes you feel like you accomplished something.

Holidays and Christmas I have lists almost from every year telling me what size everyone wears and what they want Santa to bring them. Well if Santa Claus can have a list, I guess I can too.

I did not know this until recently that there is a computer app that gives the format for a list. I have never used it, because my lists are written on notebook paper and I think I still have lists laying around from 10 years ago.

Maybe I have a list phobia because if I need or have to do or go someplace, I need a list.



**Flooding near Payne, OH. Flooding continues to be an issue in the area with the Maumee River cresting at 13.9 feet on Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. (flood stage is 11 feet)**



**Structural damage due to the EF-1 tornado that was confirmed just outside of Hicksville, OH on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.**

(Continued from Page 1)

southern ends of Paulding County, contributing to scattered power outages and hazardous travel conditions.

Heavy rainfall compounded the impact of the storms. Official measurements recorded more than three inches of rain within a 24-hour period, while some localized reports approached four inches. The rapid accumulation of water led to widespread flooding concerns, particularly in low-lying and poorly drained areas.

Residents across the area reported flooded roadways, water in basements, and damage to outbuildings and homes. Emergency crews responded to numerous calls throughout the night as storms continued to redevelop and move through the region.

Do you make lists? Have you ever forgotten a list? Do you have Dailey lists? Let me know, and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts. Oh I better put that on my list. Happy list making!

**ANNUAL MEETING AND SPRING TEA DATES SET AT HISTORY MUSEUM**

The Paulding County History Museum's annual meeting will be held Sunday, May 31 at 2:00 p.m. at the museum, located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding, across from the fairgrounds.

The meeting, originally scheduled for February, was rescheduled because the kitchen area of the museum was being remodeled. Now that the work is complete, a dedication of the new kitchen will also be held during the meeting.

Additional details and the agenda will be publicized as the date for the meeting draws closer.

This year's first event, the Spring Tea, will be held Saturday, April 25 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.



**Over 3 inches of rain were report across the region**

Storm activity persisted into the early hours of Thursday morning before conditions gradually improved. Cleanup efforts began shortly after daybreak, with local officials urging residents to remain cautious around downed power lines and flooded areas.

"We will be featuring a display of vintage clothing during the tea," said Elizabeth Miller, chairman of the Spring Tea committee. "And to honor our country's 250th anniversary, we are also featuring a special 'America 250, 1776-2026' table decorated with presidential plates and patriotic trimmings. The experience will include an 1892 historical atlas of Paulding County hardbound book and a booklet with the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution." All tickets will be by advance sale only. The tea is open to ages 12 and over. Hats, gloves, and spring accessories are encouraged for attendees. If you are interested in decorating a table for the tea, contact the museum.

For more information or to become a member, contact the Paulding County History Museum at 419-399-8218 or jphs45879@yahoo.com. The museum is open every Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., from February through November, by appointment and for special events.

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

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**By: Mark Holtsberry**

Albert Wallace Treat was born December 23, 1895, in Guys, Illinois.

He was the son of William E. Treat, born August 9, 1854, in Dowagiac, Cass County, Michigan, and Carrie E. (Wallace) Treat, born February 9, 1869, in Windsor, Shelby County, Illinois. This couple was married April 24, 1889, in Shelby, Illinois.

By 1900, the couple was living in Whitley, Illinois. William was working as a hardware salesman, and Carrie was raising three children: Birdie Vay, born January 1891; Dee E., born December 1892; and Albert, born December 1895.

By 1910, William and Carrie had moved the children to a farm in Farmer, Defiance County, Ohio. William became a postmaster. Dee was helping on the farm. The daughter, Birdie, and Albert were in school but also helped on the farm.

On July 20, 1911, Carrie passed away from cancer, surgical shock, and septicemia. She was buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville, Ohio.

On June 5, 1917, Albert left the University of Chicago Medical School after two years and traveled to Payne, Ohio. He registered at the Payne precinct for the World War I draft. Albert had moved to Payne a few years earlier. He was listed as medium build, medium height, with brown eyes and brown hair. He was single and working as a traveling solicitor for the Radcliffe Chautauqua out of Washington, D.C.

Albert enlisted to serve in the military on June 21, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. On January 9, 1918, as part of Section 562, United States Army Ambulance Service, Albert was sent overseas as a Private First Class to serve with the 508th Ambulance Service. He shipped out of New York and headed to France.

In June of 1919, Albert

joined the Foreign Food Service as a food relief officer, but soon after that, he became part of the United States Consular Service. This position required a passport from the United States State Department.

He returned to America on March 14, 1920, to attend the Phi Beta Theta fraternity banquet in Washington, D.C.

On March 16, 1923, Albert's father, William, passed away. He was buried with his wife Carrie in Forest Home Cemetery.

On December 17, 1923, Albert was nominated and promoted to serve at a higher level in the United States Consulate. He eventually became Vice Consul in Smyrna, Iran. He held and commanded the food relief structure to feed war-torn countries.

On May 3, 1929, Albert Wallace Treat died suddenly. According to reports, he was stricken with pleural pneu-



**Albert Wallace Treat**

monia at his post in Tehran, Iran, some two weeks earlier. His health then declined rapidly after he contracted blood poisoning. At one time, his fever rose to 105 degrees. Serum was rushed to Tehran from Cairo, Egypt, by airplane, and three physicians were constantly by his bedside. The State Department in Washington advised relatives.

His remains were returned to Washington, D.C., where arrangements were made to return the body to Hicksville for burial. He was buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville, Ohio, Lot 58, Section 5.

...Until Next Time!

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**DOTTING MY TEAS**

**By: Marlene Oxender**

A few months after I began sorting through my parents' estate, I found an old black-and-white photograph I'd never seen before. It was a picture of my dad, my older brother Don, and myself playing on the living room floor. My dad was lying on the floor with his feet propped up on a chair, and I was the baby daughter he was holding close. I found the photo while sitting on my own living room floor, sorting through cardboard boxes I'd brought home from my parents' house. It was a moment in time I will never forget - the moment I found a photo of my dad spending time with two of his children. One of the first things I noticed about the image was the fact that the photographer had snapped the camera at the perfect moment - the moment when a little girl's baby toes were in her big brother's face.

In the weeks and months that followed, I began living in a sea of synchronistic moments which led me to write my "Baby Toes" story as well as "A Baby Toes Prayer."

Oddly enough, I didn't know my baby toes prayer was a poem. I needed a reminder from members of my writers' group: Poems don't have to rhyme.

Like most of us, I don't know much about poetry. I never knew that song lyrics are poetry. When you listen to music with lyrics, you're listening to a poem. And the words inside greeting cards are poems.

Poetry can be used to write a story or to teach a lesson. It's often found in children's books. And a poem is a good place to leave a hidden message.

My friend Jim, a fellow columnist, mentioned to me he wished he could write poems. His words prompted me to write a few thoughts about not being able to write poetry.

I Cannot Write a Poem  
Oh, I cannot write a poem.  
This I know.

I've tried and tried to write it right  
but words - they won't co-

operate.  
Although I've told them what to say,  
they keep refusing to obey.  
Don't ask them if they'll stand in line.  
Don't ask them if they'll rhyme.  
Oh, what's a poet to do?  
Shall I write about an animal?  
I'd tell a tale about its tail.  
Or maybe pick a flower -  
what would you like to know?  
Don't ask about the fragrance.  
You must smell it for yourself  
for a poet has no words to tell  
what a smell smells like.  
And the blossoms -  
please give me your thoughts  
and anything you've got for words -  
they escape me.  
If only they knew the clever things they could do -  
they'd make an appearance at the end of our pencils and pens.  
They'd line up just right and help a poor writer who cannot write a poem!

*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 BEGINNING OF THE END**

**By: James Neuhouser**

America is at war, it is supposed to last just for a short time, but it just keeps grinding on. The question arises: can this be the beginning of the end? The answer is we don't know if it will be soon, but it definitely will happen.

The Bible is filled with prophecy. You don't hear so much about it anymore, but in my dad's time it was a prime topic. The prophecy of the nation of Israel, the seed of Abraham, is given in the first book of the Bible. In Genesis 12:3, God told Abraham and Sarah that their family would be a great nation. All through the entire Bible this theme is repeated over and over.

But it turned out to be a bumpy road. God helped them to leave the land of Egypt, wander for 40 years in

the wilderness, and finally occupy the land of Canaan. The Babylonians conquered the Israelites in 70 AD and destroyed their temple, and again in 135 AD and destroyed the second temple.

The Jews were scattered all over the world. The reason was because they disobeyed God. Israel was no nation for 1900 years, but God promised they would become a nation again. Nearly half of the entire race was eliminated during World War II, but Israel did become a nation again. In May 1948 that prophecy was fulfilled.

An interesting happening, the American general that

rode into Israel on a white horse knew he was fulfilling prophecy. A conquerer was to ride a white horse. When I was a lad we thought Jesus would return before 1978. This came from a prophecy that Jesus would return within a generation of Israel coming back to their homeland. Apparently someone misinterpreted this passage of the Bible.

It looks like the time is nigh, there are very few prophecies to be fulfilled. I would like to give a partial list of some of these prophecies. Next time we meet I'll try to list five prophecies that are coming true now or have yet to come to pass.

*(Continued from Page 1)*



**Board Chairman Adam Schnipke - Paulding Putnam 2026 annual meeting.**

of our members who were previously unserved or underserved, this is a transformation similar to when electricity first came to rural communities."

He encouraged members to attend the 2026 Member Appreciation Day on July 25 at the Fort Wayne Zoo and for members of Paulding Putnam's Political Action Committee to attend a legislative dinner with speakers on August 24 at the Wassenberg Art Center in Van Wert.

Secretary-Treasurer Tim Derck reported that the co-op remains financially strong despite ongoing industry challenges. Paulding Putnam recorded more than \$50 million in electric sales in 2025, a 5% increase and the highest in the co-op's history. Power supply costs totaled approximately \$33 million, continuing to represent the largest expense for the organization.

Derck noted that material costs for essential equipment such as poles, wire, and transformers have risen significantly between 25% and 50%, requiring careful financial management and modest rate adjustments.

**Key financial highlights included:**

- A \$6.50 per kWh increase in the large power demand charge
  - A \$3.50 increase to the monthly residential and general service charge
  - Core residential rates remaining steady at 12.9 cents per kilowatt-hour
- Despite these pressures, Paulding Putnam's rates remain below the state average in both Ohio and Indiana. "The typical member pays about \$7 per day for electricity," Derck said. "That's a strong value for power your home and daily life."

President and CEO Randy Price emphasized the cooperative's forward-looking investments to support reliability, growth, and new opportunities across the region. For 2026, Paulding Putnam is doubling its invest-

ments in the electric system, with \$8.4 million budgeted for reliability upgrades. These improvements include enhanced system inspections, expanded vegetation management, and infrastructure upgrades like substation expansion to reduce outages and support future demand and capacity needs. Several large economic development projects were cited in both Paulding and Putnam counties, supporting the need for reliable electricity and fiber internet.

Price cited more than 500 miles of mainline fiber have already been constructed, with plans to exceed 1,500 miles. Service is now available in multiple communities, with continued expansion planned throughout 2026.

"The impact we're seeing from remote work opportunities to improved access to healthcare and education is exactly why we're making this investment," Price said.

To check availability, members of the community are encouraged to visit [www.fiber.ppec.coop](http://www.fiber.ppec.coop).

Marketing and Communications Manager Samantha Kuhn joined Price to draw the 2026 General Scholarship Winners, recognizing the exceptional students in our local communities. A total of \$2,500 in general scholarships were awarded during the meeting.

**The \$250 general scholarship winners drawn were as follows:**

- Owen Whitaker (Hoagland)
- Elizabeth Verhoff (Ottawa)
- Lane Rellinger (Cloverdale)
- Alana Branigan (New Haven)
- Beau Reyna (Ottawa)
- Emma Fuelling (Decatur)
- Landon Verhoff (Ottawa)
- David Westrick (Ottawa)

**PAULDING COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM GEARS UP FOR SPRING TEA**



**From the 2025 Spring Tea. Make plans now to attend this annual event on April 25 at the Paulding County History Museum. Nine tables will be decorated especially for this event.**

PAULDING - It's time to make plans to attend Paulding County History Museum's annual Spring Tea.

The tea will be from 1:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25. Table hostesses will uniquely decorate each table, most with heirloom or collectible tableware.

Bring your friends and enjoy a delightful afternoon. Wear a hat, gloves or spring-themed accessories. Door prizes will be awarded for Best Decorated Table, Best Hat and Best Spring Tea Attire.

Guests will have an exclusive preview of a new exhibit showcasing two collections of vintage clothing, plus a new nursery room exhibit and displays of shoes from past eras, furs and more.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Ages 12 and older are welcome to attend. For more information about tickets, you can reach someone at the museum on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. or

by calling 419-399-8218 (leave message). Or, text 419-769-3993 or email [jphs45879@yahoo.com](mailto:jphs45879@yahoo.com).

A special Presidential Table has been added to help celebrate America's 250th birthday. A seat at this table will include one copy of the county's 1892 historical atlas, a booklet containing the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution and commemorative magnets. This table for eight will feature a vintage patriotic tablescape.

The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding, across from the fairgrounds.

Committee members include chairman Elizabeth Miller, assisted by Melinda Krack.

Updates will be posted on the museum's Facebook page [facebook.com/jphsmuseum](https://facebook.com/jphsmuseum).

The museum's regular hours are Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is free.

- Abigail Bullinger (Paulding)
- Landen Danberry (Paulding)

**A total of \$1,000 in bill credits were drawn at random from those members who watched the meeting and left a comment. The winners were as follows:**

- \$100 bill credit winners:
  - Joyce Verhoff
  - Sue Wagner
  - Chad and Courtney Smith
- \$25 bill credit winners:
  - Dallis Gibson
  - Amy Miller Eickholt
  - Myrna Hubbard
  - Jill Patrick
  - Brian Pertel
  - Emma Recker
  - Angie Fenton Gibson
  - Tamera J. Bartz
  - Krista Pierce
  - Alan Tonya Gerschutz
  - Kris Lantow

- Ruth Ann Ellerbrock
- Jan Bockrath Schroeder
- Alan Tonya Gerschutz
- Paula Meek
- Jeanne Wenzinger
- Sally Baumle
- Timothy Worline
- Dustin Jenna Miller
- Cierrah Glisson
- Andrew Allen
- Douglas & Michelle Lynne Kemerer
- Cheryl Troyer Mansfield
- Nikki Miller
- Donald H Schroeder
- Deb and Rick Carder
- Malinda Schmidt
- Gloria Gerig

To view the annual meeting, visit <https://ppec.coop/2026-annual-meeting>. Paulding Putnam's 2025 annual report and financials can be found here as well. Those wanting more information can call the office at 800-686-2357.

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the November Permanent Improvement Levy, which gave me early insight into both our district's financial realities and our community's concerns. First, I want to be clear: our district is not in immediate crisis. Our schools are operating and our students are learning. However, we are already operating with deficit spending, and our five-year financial forecast shows a significant decline if no action is taken. Like many districts across Ohio, we face rising costs, changes in state funding, and uncertainty around future revenue. These are not hypothetical challenges - they are already impacting our ability to sustain what we have and plan responsibly for the future.

In response, we have taken a deeper look at our operations and identified meaningful cost reductions beyond basic efficiency cuts. These include staffing through attrition, transportation, purchased services, extracurricular funding, and building use. We have already identified approximately \$330,000 in General Fund reductions for the 2026-2027 school year and are actively working to implement these changes. We are committed to being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

When the November permanent levy did not pass, we listened. We heard concerns about long-term commitments and adjusted the current request to a five-year levy instead. This reflects our commitment to accountability and earning your trust. We are asking for the opportunity to demonstrate responsible use

of these funds to maintain our schools and plan for the future. This levy is not about expanding programs - it is about maintaining what we have: our classrooms, staff, student opportunities, and overall quality of education. A common question is why certain updates were not made earlier when funding was available. The answer is that we have approached these decisions the same way families do at home - using equipment for its full lifespan, maintaining and repairing rather than replacing prematurely. At the same time, some needs can no longer wait, especially when they directly impact students. Even with these adjustments, they are not enough to offset the long-term challenges ahead. I understand that many families are feeling financial pressure. These are not easy decisions. However, Ohio's school funding model requires districts to rely on local support to maintain programs and services. There are limits to what can be sustained without community investment.

That's where the levy comes in. As a parent, this is deeply personal. I have a child preparing for preschool, a seventh grader, and a junior in high school. I want every student to have strong academics, supportive teachers, safe facilities, and meaningful opportunities. I also want to avoid a future where decisions are made out of urgency - where larger class sizes, reduced opportunities, or deeper cuts become necessary because we waited too long. Our priorities for levy funds are clear. First, we must address critical maintenance and safety needs, including issues like HVAC systems that directly affect daily conditions in our schools. These are essential - not optional - and will come first. After that, we must address areas where we are falling short in providing an equitable student experience. One clear example is the lack of adequate locker room space for our female athletes. Currently, girls in sports like softball and track do not have a dedicated space to change, often using a bathroom or the boys' locker room, with another student standing guard. As both a parent and a board member, that is simply not acceptable. Our students deserve dignity, privacy, and respect. Our girls' experiences matter just as much as our boys'. No student should have to worry

about where they can change before a game or practice. Addressing needs like this is not about extras - it is about fairness and ensuring every student feels valued. As a board member, I cannot tell anyone how to vote. What I can do is share the facts and be transparent about the work being done. As a parent, I can say this: I believe in our schools, our staff, and the importance of planning ahead. I encourage you to ask questions, stay informed, and be part of the conversation. The decisions we make today will shape our schools for years to come. This isn't just about finances - it's about the opportunities we create for our children and the future we choose for our community. —Nicole Den Herder, Paulding, OH

**FOUR STAGES OF RAISING CONFIDENT, MONEY-SMART KIDS**

Good financial habits are a little like brushing your teeth. When you learn them early, they become second nature, and you carry them with you for life. And while money can feel complicated, especially today, the foundation starts simply. Parents can begin the conversation with very young children, and young adults can build on those basics as they take on more responsibility. Step by step, these habits create confidence that helps build long term financial security and a more fulfilling life. The following are the four key stages of financial growth.

Stage 1: For very young children, the goal is to make money feel simple and manageable. A great place to start is with three jars labeled "Spend," "Save" and "Share." When kids can actually see their money grow or shrink, the idea starts to make sense. Saving also introduces them to goal setting, and working toward paying for a small toy or outing teaches patience. Most important, you're helping your children see money as a tool they can understand easily and use with confidence.

Stage 2: If you have tweens (children roughly 9 to 12 years old), they're usually ready for slightly bigger financial ideas. This is a great time for them to earn money through chores or small jobs, helping them see the connection between effort and reward and building a sense of ownership. Conversations about needs versus wants also become more meaningful, because kids are now making real choices with money they earned themselves. Your tween may be ready for a simple savings account to watch their savings grow, or a reloadable cash card for spending.

Stage 3: By the time teens reach high school or young adulthood, budgeting becomes essential. This doesn't

need to be overly strict or complicated. A simple system that helps them track deposits and withdrawals can make all the difference. Whether they use an app, a paper notebook or a spreadsheet, the real goal is awareness. Teenagers also benefit from learning how credit works. Understanding how to build a healthy credit score and how to use credit wisely protects them from costly mistakes in later life.

Stage 4: Then come the early working years, when habits shift from learning to building. One of the smartest steps at this stage is paying yourself first. Automatic transfers to savings or retirement accounts help establish stability without extra effort. Even small retirement contributions matter more than most people realize, because time allows compounding to do the heavy lifting. This is also when young adults can start organizing their money into different buckets for rent, automobile payments, emergencies, retirement and everyday spending. These habits help lay the groundwork for financial freedom down the road.

Throughout every stage, the theme is confidence. Each small success creates a sense of control and each good habit makes the next one easier. Over time, these habits turn into a lifetime of financial security and fulfillment. When you start strong and stay consistent, money becomes a tool that helps your children support the lives they want.

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

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**Paulding Exempted Village Schools Levy: A Perspective as a Parent and School Board Member**

As both a parent in our district and a member of the PEVS Board of Education, I want to share why the upcoming school levy matters - not just from a board perspective, but from a personal one. Before being elected in January, I served on the committee for

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**SEARCH YOUR SOUL**  
Democrats are slow learners. They can't distinguish between right and wrong. They will follow a leader like Schumer to death before they admit their democrat leaders want communism like Putin. You look more like the blind for the End Times as mentioned in the Bible.

These democrat leaders are very smart. They know America was founded on Christian and political having equal say. But during WWII evil crept in to their midst. Some took the communist ACLU's publication, The Humanist Manifesto, to heart.

A new kind of war on our homeland broke open in 1947. It started when Democrats declared Separation of Church and State. I know you say "that was our Supreme Court." So it was, but who seated the majority of that court.

Even today, 79 years later, I believe the liberal judges on that court and all of their judges on lower courts vote mostly in favor of anti-God. Your loudest mouth leaders purposely select radical anti-God judges to rule the courts.

Democrat leaders are perfect Satan followers. They know how only to destroy. Many questions could be

*(Continued on Page 8)*

**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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## RAIDERS TOP PIRATES 7-1 BEHIND NO-HIT PITCHING PERFORMANCE



Wayne Trace sophomore Ryan Cluts slides safely into third while third basemen waits for the ball to fall into his glove. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

The Wayne Trace Raiders delivered a dominant performance on both sides of the ball, defeating Continental 7-1 while holding the Pirates hitless on Monday, March 30th.

Wayne Trace broke the game open with three runs in the third inning and added four more in the sixth. Continental managed to push across a run in the seventh, but it came without the benefit of a hit, as the Raiders' pitching staff combined for a no-hitter.

Deklyn Schweinsberg earned the win with an impressive outing, tossing five hitless innings while allowing no runs. He struck out five and walked five. Tanner Laukhuf followed with a clean sixth inning, striking out two without allowing a hit or a walk. Carter Clemens closed the game in the seventh, surrendering one unearned run while striking out one and maintaining the no-hit effort.

Continental's Nolan Cordes took the loss, working

3 1/3 innings and allowing three runs—none earned—on three hits while striking out four and walking two. Quinn Tegenkamp pitched the final 2 2/3 innings, giving up four runs (one earned) on three hits with one strikeout and three walks.

At the plate, Wayne Trace tallied six hits on the day. Jonathon Sterrett led the way with a single and two runs scored. Carter Clemens and Micah Sinn each recorded a single and scored, while Carter Baumle added a single and a run. Kahne Mansfield doubled, and Brody Ross-wurm also contributed a base hit. Tanner Laukhuf and Caden Sinn each crossed the plate in the win.

Haden Streicher scored Continental's lone run in the seventh inning.

Despite committing two errors, Wayne Trace's pitching staff and timely offense proved decisive, as the Raiders secured the victory with a combined no-hitter.

## LADY RAIDERS ROLLS PAST OTTOVILLE IN OFFENSIVE SHOWCASE



Wayne Trace Sophomore Avery Noffsinger slams the ball over the infield and achieves first base and pushes Olivia Tarlton to second base. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

Wayne Trace put together a powerful performance at the plate on March 30, defeating Ottoville 17-7 in a high-scoring contest.

The Raiders jumped out early, scoring four runs in the first inning and breaking the game open with a seven-run second. They continued to apply pressure with three runs in the third and added single runs in each of the final three innings to seal the victory. Wayne Trace finished with 17 runs on 13 hits, while Ottoville recorded seven runs on eight hits and committed five errors.

Avery Noffsinger earned the win in the circle for Wayne Trace, pitching five innings while allowing seven runs (six earned) on eight hits. She struck out 11 and walked two. Elly Rickard came on in relief and closed out the game with a scoreless inning, allowing no hits while striking out one.

Ottoville's Alexis Eickholt took the loss after allowing 11 runs (six earned) on five hits in two innings of work, walking six. Emma Brinkman provided relief, pitching 3 2/3 innings and giving up six runs (three earned) on eight hits with two strikeouts.

Wayne Trace's offense was led by Olivia Zartman, who doubled twice, scored two runs, and drove in four. Brooke Tigner had a strong showing with two singles, three runs scored, and three RBIs, while Sierra Young added a double and three RBIs. Raegan McGarvey contributed two doubles, two runs, and an RBI.

Alicia Bahena added two singles, two runs, and two RBIs, and Elly Rickard recorded a single and double while scoring twice and driving in a run. Sam Williams and Addyson LaBounty each singled and scored two runs. Kendall Folsom added a run and RBI, while Olivia Tarlton drove in a run. Avery Noffsinger also crossed the plate in the win.

Ottoville was led by Berlyn Horstman, who hit two doubles and drove in three runs. Alexis Eickholt doubled and drove in two runs, while Kendall Hohlbein collected two singles, scored twice, and added an RBI. Avery Bearman and Katelyn Horstman each had a single and scored a run, while Emma Brinkman also recorded a hit. Livia Grothouse scored a run for Ottoville.

Despite a mid-game push from Ottoville, Wayne Trace's early offensive surge proved too much to overcome as the Raiders secured the win.

## WAYNE TRACE OUTSLUGS MINSTER 17-11 IN HIGH-SCORING BATTLE

Wayne Trace powered its way to a 17-11 victory over Minster on March 21, riding a big offensive performance in a game that featured plenty of runs on both sides.

After taking a 1-0 lead in the first inning, the Raiders broke the game open with an eight-run fourth inning to seize control. Wayne Trace continued to add on with runs in the fifth, sixth, and a five-run seventh inning, finishing with 17 runs on 18 hits. Minster mounted a late push with eight runs in the final inning but fell short despite totaling 10 hits.

Raegan McGarvey earned the win in the circle for Wayne Trace, pitching 6 1/3 innings while allowing 11 runs on 10 hits. She struck out three and walked nine. Elly Rickard came on in relief to record the final two outs, allowing no hits or runs while striking out one.

Minster's Brianna Osterloh took the loss after allowing 13 runs on 17 hits over seven innings, striking out two and walking six. Caroline Knapke also saw time in the circle, surrendering four earned runs without recording an out.

Wayne Trace's offense was led by Sam Williams, who had a huge day with two singles and a home run while driving in five runs. Olivia Zartman added three singles, scored four runs, and drove in three, while Avery Noffsinger collected three singles, scored twice, and added three RBIs. Raegan McGarvey also contributed at the plate with four singles and three RBIs.

Alicia Bahena tallied three singles with two runs scored and an RBI, and Elly Rickard added a single, scored three times, and drove in a run. Brooke Tigner and Addyson LaBounty each scored, while

Olivia Tarlton also crossed the plate in the win.

Minster was led by Reece Albers, who tripled, scored twice, and drove in a run. Whitney Trego had a single and double with a run and RBI, while Caitlyn Kaup added two singles, two runs, and an RBI. Caroline Knapke drove in two runs, and Ansley Wolf, Alayna Bergman, Sophie Homan, and Alivia Heckman each contributed RBIs. Lucy Schmiesing added a double, and Brianna Osterloh recorded a single.

Despite Minster's late rally, Wayne Trace's explosive middle innings proved to be the difference as the Raiders secured the win.

## MENDEZ THROWS NO-HITTER AS PAULDING BLANKS COLDWATER 10-0

Paulding turned in a dominant performance on March 30, defeating Coldwater 10-0 behind a no-hit effort in a five-inning contest.

The Panthers set the tone early with four runs in the first inning, added three more in the third, and closed out the game with a three-run fifth. Paulding finished with 10 runs on nine hits while playing error-free defense. Coldwater was held without a hit and committed two errors.

Tia Mendez led the way in the circle for Paulding, tossing a complete-game no-hitter over five innings. She struck out seven and walked two in a commanding performance.

Coldwater's Harlow Heyne took the loss, allowing 10 runs (six earned) on nine hits over 4 1/3 innings while striking out four and walking six.

Paulding's offense was paced by Madison Clark, who had a big day with a single and two doubles, scoring twice and driving in two runs. Civil Pumphrey added three singles, a run, and three RBIs, while Mariah Klopfenstein doubled and drove in two.

Cadence Schwab tripled and scored a run, and Taylor Hogans contributed a single and an RBI. Samantha Leal drove in two runs and scored, while Luciana Martinez, Delaney Johanns, Darcy Taylor, Gabby Stork, and Tia Mendez each crossed the plate.

## WILHELM SETS JUNIOR WORLD RECORD TOTAL, EYES NATIONALS NEXT



A Paulding County native is making his mark on the national and world stage of powerlifting. Nathan Wilhelm has steadily risen through the ranks of the sport, recently achieving a junior world record total and positioning himself among the top competitors in his division.

Wilhelm has been lifting weights since 2018, though he did not enter his first powerlifting meet until 2023. Competing under USA Powerlifting, the largest drug-tested powerlifting federation in the United States, he quickly progressed from local and state competitions to national-level meets over the past year.

His dedication and focus culminated in what he considers his biggest accomplishment to date—a junior world record total in the 308-pound, drug-tested raw division. Wilhelm spent at least two years working toward that goal.

"I devoted at least two years of attention to this singular goal," he said.

Across the three primary lifts—squat, bench press and deadlift—Wilhelm demonstrated both strength and consistency. Of the three, he says the deadlift is his favorite.

"It's not very technical," he said. "It's just a great indicator of someone's raw power."

Despite setting a world record, Wilhelm narrowly missed a top-five finish and did not earn a professional card. Still, he remains focused on what lies ahead.

Wilhelm also offered advice to younger athletes inter-

ested in powerlifting, emphasizing patience and consistency.

"Getting stronger takes time—more than you probably think," he said. "Focus on your own progress instead of comparing yourself to others."

He added that athletes must be willing to adjust their training over time to continue improving.

"At a certain point your body adapts," Wilhelm said. "You need to introduce something new every four to eight weeks and target your weak points. I've never had a coach—I just stayed curious and kept learning."

Wilhelm credited his success to the support of his family, including his parents, in-laws, sisters and his wife, Shannon, who travels with him to competitions and helps keep him focused. Many of his supporters also follow along through livestreams, offering encouragement from home.

Wilhelm will next compete at USAPL Raw Nationals in Chicago on June 13. Following that event, he plans to take an extended offseason to allow his body to recover after completing three consecutive meet preparation cycles with no break in between. These "meet preps," typically lasting 10 to 14 weeks, are designed to maximize strength and efficiency while minimizing injury risk. However, the sustained intensity places significant strain on the joints and central nervous system. Wilhelm emphasized the importance of stepping away

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from maximal lifting to allow for proper recovery, noting that while some strength may temporarily decline, it returns quickly once training resumes.

Wilhelm's record-setting performance came at the Arnold Sports Festival, one of the premier fitness expos in the world, founded by Arnold Schwarzenegger. Held March 5-8 in Columbus, Ohio, the event features a wide range of strength sports and draws elite competitors from across the globe. Wilhelm competed on March 7 in what was his first appearance at a world-level meet.

At the 2026 Arnold Sports Festival, Wilhelm recorded the following results:

Squat: 760, 804, 815 pounds

Bench Press: 534, 551, 551 pounds

Deadlift: 694, 750, 782 pounds (personal record)

Total: 2,122 pounds (962.5 kilograms) - Junior 308-pound tested raw world record

With a world record already to his name, Wilhelm now looks ahead to nationals with the goal of continuing his rise in the sport and earning his professional status.

Tyler Goyings added a single and a run, while Stroker Etter and Nick Baughman each scored two runs, with Baughman also recording an RBI. Wesley Grindstaff also crossed the plate in the win.

Ottoville's offense was led by Nolan Beaubien, who singled and scored the team's lone run. Colton Kroeckel added a single and an RBI, while Cody Calvelage, Damian Lawhorn, and Eli Hoersten each recorded a base hit.

With the victory, Paulding showcased both its depth at the plate and efficiency on the mound, cruising to a decisive early-season win.

## PAULDING EXPLODES FOR 23 RUNS IN ROUT OF OTTOVILLE



Paulding's Junior Easton Lehman smashes the ball to center-field and picks up a triple and an RBI. [More pictures at engagingexposures.com](http://www.westbendnews.net)

Paulding delivered an offensive showcase on March 30, overwhelming Ottoville 23-1 in a dominant home victory.

The Panthers wasted no time setting the tone, scoring six runs in the first inning before erupting for 12 more in the second to take complete control of the game. Paulding added four runs in the third and another in the fourth, finishing with 23 runs on 14 hits while committing no errors. Ottoville managed just one run on five hits and was hampered by seven defensive errors.

Zachary Barton earned the win on the mound for Paulding, going the distance with a strong five-inning performance. He allowed just one earned run on five hits while striking out seven and issuing no walks.

Ottoville's Zach Hohlbein took the loss after a tough outing in the opening inning, surrendering nine runs—seven earned—on five hits while walking four. Kroeckel provided relief for Ottoville.

Paulding's lineup produced up and down the order in the rout. Colten Hunt led the charge with a single, double, and triple, scoring four runs and driving in two. Easton Lehman turned in a big day as well, collecting three singles and a triple while scoring twice and knocking in five runs. Grady Barton added a single, scored three times, and drove in a team-high six RBIs.

Grady Arend contributed a single and double with three runs scored and two RBIs, while Zach Barton helped his own cause with two singles, three runs, and two RBIs. Ridge Hunt doubled, scored twice, and drove in a run.

## WHITMER BLANKS WAYNE TRACE 12-0 BEHIND NO-HIT PERFORMANCE

Toledo Whitmer dominated from start to finish on March 21, defeating Wayne Trace 12-0 in a five-inning contest at Minster.

Whitmer set the tone early with four runs in the first inning, added one in the second, and broke the game open with five more in the third. They tacked on two additional runs in the fourth to finish with 12 runs on 12 hits, while Wayne Trace was held hitless and committed one error.

Avery Staples was outstanding in the circle for Whitmer, tossing a complete-game no-hitter over five innings. She struck out six and walked one, keeping the Raiders off balance throughout.

Elly Rickard took the loss for Wayne Trace after allowing 10 runs on 11 hits over three innings, striking out four and walking three. Avery Noffsinger pitched the final inning, giving up two runs (one earned) on one hit while striking out two and walking one.

Whitmer's offense was led by Paxton LaPoint, who homered and singled while scoring twice and driving in a run. Marissa Ibarra also hit a home run to go along with a single, finishing with a run and an RBI. Kyleigh Black contributed a single and double with two runs scored and two RBIs.

Ryleigh Hannibal added a single and triple while scoring twice, and Lydia Speegle recorded two singles with a run and an RBI. Maddy Weal-leans drove in two runs with a base hit, while Raegan LaPoint added a single and a run. Taylor McCloskey and Sydney Delp also contributed runs, with Delp adding an RBI.

## ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: EVANGELINE STREET BOUTIQUE



Aria Clem, owner



Lyla



Alia



Elsi

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is proud to highlight Evangeline Street Boutique, a growing small-town business dedicated to helping women feel confident, comfortable, and at home.

Owned by Aria Clem, Evangeline Street Boutique offers a welcoming shopping experience for women of all ages. Built on a love for fashion and a passion for creating an inclusive environment, the boutique has quickly become a place where customers can feel seen and supported.

Evangeline Street Boutique first opened its doors in the fall of 2024 at Glenbrook Mall. In January 2026, the business made the move to Antwerp, bringing its personalized approach to a close-knit community setting. Now located on North Main Street in downtown Antwerp, the boutique shares space with Junque, creating a unique shopping destination for visitors.

What sets the boutique apart is its commitment to more than just retail. Each customer is greeted with a warm welcome and offered one-on-one service designed to help them feel confident in their style choices. Whether shopping for everyday wear or a special occasion, the focus remains on creating a comfortable and uplifting experience.

Customers continue to re-



turn not only for the boutique's carefully curated styles, but also for the personal connections formed during each visit. Clem shared that some of the most rewarding moments come from helping customers find the perfect outfit for important life events, creating lasting memories along the way.

Clem said she is most proud of the strong sense of community that has developed around the business, along with the dedicated team that helps bring that vision to life.

Evangeline Street Boutique also extends its reach beyond

the storefront through an online shop, making its offerings accessible to a wider audience while maintaining its signature personalized touch.

Clem would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported the boutique. "We greatly appreciate you," she said, emphasizing the importance of community in the business's continued growth.

Residents are encouraged to stop in, experience the welcoming atmosphere, and discover why Evangeline Street Boutique is quickly becoming a staple in the Antwerp business community.

## WAYNE TRACE DISTRICT ART SHOW



Pictured artwork created by junior Boston Font.

Wayne Trace was unable to generate any offense against Staples, as Whitmer's pitching and consistent hitting proved too much in the shutout victory.

## WAYNE TRACE PLATES FOUR IN SEVENTH TO DEFEAT VAN WERT 5-2

Wayne Trace used a late offensive surge to break open a tight game, scoring four runs in the seventh inning to defeat Van Wert 5-2 on March 26.

The Raiders struck first with a run in the opening inning, then battled through a scoreless stretch before Van Wert answered with two runs in the fourth to take a 2-1 lead. Wayne Trace responded in the final inning, stringing together timely hits to plate four runs and reclaim control for the win.

Raegan McGarvey was dominant in the circle for Wayne Trace, pitching a complete game while allowing just five hits and two runs—both unearned. She struck out 10 and walked four to earn the victory.

Van Wert's Emma West also went the distance, allowing five runs (three earned) on 10 hits while striking out seven and walking one in a solid effort despite taking the loss.

(Continued on Page 10)

This year's Wayne Trace District Art Show, featuring the works of students in grades K-12, will be held on Saturday, April 18 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Junior High Gym.

New this year: We are inviting Wayne Trace Alumni to share one of their art pieces as well—we'd love to see what you have been creating since you gradu-

ated! Works would need to be ready for display (matted, mounted, or framed without glass), and can be dropped off in the high school office between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. the week of the show, April 13-17, or brought to the junior high gym Friday afternoon, April 17, between 3:30-6:00 p.m. All works can be picked up after the show.

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Location: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 601 Flatrock Dr., Fellowship Hall, Paulding, OH

Come & ask questions, learn about the candidates.

Invited Candidates: Jon Husted, Frank LaRose, Andrew King and Mark Holtsberry



# THE LEFT TURN



No. 20 Ricky Thornton Jr wins at Atomic Photo Credit Campbell Photography

By: Ron Burt

Sunday, March 29th, Park City Kansas. 81 Speedway. Michael "Buddy" Kofoid reminded everyone a great life lesson, never give up. The World of Outlaw Sprint Car driver. After 15 laps of the 30 circuit feature, the race looked over. Ryan Timms had a 4 second lead over Buddy, working his way through traffic. Kofoid started to get some momentum and by lap 21 he was only 2 seconds behind the leader. When the white flag flew for the final lap, the two cars were nose to tail. Out of turn 1, Timms extended the lead to 2 car lengths. Kofoid kept his car within striking distance. Then

Kofoid pulled off an amazing slide job going into turns 3 and 4. Timms had his car too high on the cushion and couldn't cross over on Buddy. It was a wild finish.

Kofoid became the third multi-time winner of the season, joining David Gravel and Anthony Macri. Kofoid equaled Ron Shuman for 28th on the all-time World of Outlaws win list with his 24th career triumph. The win moved him" back up to 4th in the current standings. Ryan Timms, Cole Macedo, Carson Macedo and Donny Schatz completed the top 5. The Greatest Show on Dirt will take off Easter weekend and will be back in action April 10th and 11th at I-55 Speedway.

The Buckeye Spring 50, for Lucas Oil Late Model Dirt Series opened Atomic Speedway in Chillicothe and the biggest Dirt Late Model stars in the country didn't disappoint the fans. Ricky Thornton Jr started the feature 4th and fought to pick up his first win of the year. With 5 laps remaining, Thornton was able to pass the hard charging Brandon Sheppard who at that point had led the first 45 circuits. The last 5 laps were

nose to tail action and the win at the checker was by a half car length. It was a repeat win for Ricky. He won last year's Buckeye Spring Classic at Atomic and took home \$15,000.00 and this year he added \$16,300.00. Rounding out the Top 5 Brandon Sheppard, who had to fend off Brandon Overton, Josh Rice and Max Blair. Brandon Sheppard won Saturday at Brownstown Speedway in Indiana.

The current Top 5 in points Lucas Oil Model Dirt Series 1st Devin Moran 1625, 2nd Hudson O'Neal 1610, 3rd Brandon Overton 1530, 4th Ricky Thornton Jr. 1525 and 5th Max Blair. The next action for the series will be Georgetown Speedway DE, Friday, April 24th.

Pro Legends were the support group for the Late Models. Quade Schoonover won the feature followed by 2nd Steven Partin and Quintin Adams 3rd. The next night at Atomic will be April 11th featuring the Fast on Dirt 410 Sprint Series, The American Late Model Iron-Man Series and the Sport Mods.

Shadybowl Speedway, in De Graff opened its doors on Sunday afternoon with a packed house and lots of cars. The World's fastest paved 3/10th mile oval hosted the 14th Annual Cabin Fever Championships. The Vore's HRA Late Models ran the circuit 50 laps and Josh Sage took the checker flag, big trophy and a big check. Ryan Fleming was on the winner's bumper for 2nd and Zach Stacy finished 3rd.

Terry Fisher Jr. took command of the Modified feature and never had to look back. The race went flag-to-flag, completing the 50-lap feature in 12 minutes with nonstop green flag action for the Mods. Mike Carroll had to settle for 2nd and Carson Klingelhofer 3rd.

Other winners opening

day Vore's Compact Touring Series Bo Hoelscher, Crown Vics Matt Parsons, and Street Stock Feature Buck Purtee.

It was announced this week that Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon will host the Hammer Down Showdown

September 26th. The Fremont Dirt Trucks vs the Dominator Super Stocks from Oakshade and other racetracks. This year it's one night only and only at Oakshade Raceway.

Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out!

(Letters to the Editor ... continued from Page 5)

asked. I'm only asking a few. These are all proper. I will answer the first one only. You answer the others.

1. Why declare Separation of Church and State?

First off — this was requested by the anti-God ACLU. I think their hate for God was/is greater than how many Christians feel about God today.

2. Why censor pastors?

3. Why forbid prayer and God in school?

4. Why seat anti-God judges in courts across America?

5. Why hate God?

6. Why spend more time hating Trump and causing chaos to us and mistrust among us than in helping and improving our world?

I'm only mentioning two of their judges. They have many more but these two gained national attention. This first one sided with an evil atheist father who doesn't live with his wife and 11 yr old daughter. It is quite evident this young girl loved her church and Christian friends. This evil biased democrat judge ruled she could never read or hear anything Christian again or have any Christian friends. That was a court ruling in 2024 by a Maine democrat judge.

That evil father went so far as to get a California State University professor to swear this church was a cult. Democrat stupidity has a vicious and deadly bite. It's after America's death.

Another one in Chicago was about a college girl being murdered by an illegal. This dedicated habitual crook had been deported four times without any lengthy prison term. Somehow he was able to sneak back through our liberal border. This misfit judge just ruled the girl just was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

One last thing! I believe it is impossible for a true Christian vote for democrats. I'm asking you in this position to seriously look at yourself. I'm Christian and could no more vote for adding any strength to this anti-God party than killing someone as they stand for.

Don't kid yourself by saying they don't believe in murder. What is murder? It's the taking of a human life. How can you believe abortion is anything but, taking a human life?

Just remember this. Your anti-moral, anti-God party leaders will fight to their death before they allow abortion to be removed from the books. They would lose too many voters. Think about this. It is their evil that keeps them united.

Think about this. Do you follow Satan and say you believe in God? Better do some soul-searching.

—Richard Mastin  
Hicksville, OH

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Crushing Your Voting

### Rights

Wake up America, everyday Trump and the Republican Party are trying to take your voting rights away. The latest sham is called, SAVE Act which will affect millions of people and I'm not just talking about immigrants.

I've been voting for decades and not until King Trump arrived did voting become such a big issue. When Trump lost to Joe Biden there were sixty court cases filed by Trump and his followers challenging the election results and they lost every court case even by judges appointed by Trump. America, there's no reason to pass the SAVE Act because we already have laws as to how you can register and vote. If this bill would pass, it would be easier to buy an AR-15-style rifle than it would be to vote.

From 2005 to 2022 there were 107 million ballots cast and there were 103 cases of fraud. Trump is also trying to stop mail-in voting by mail, but just two weeks ago there was an election in his area and guess what, he voted by mail. That's the HYPOCRITE running our Country.

I think it's time we establish a Voter ID Card issued by the Government which would take time to work out the details along with term limits. Unfortunately, the party running our government today would have to be replaced.

—Bob Dunderman  
Fort Wayne, IN

### PAULDING COUNTY COURT REPORTS

Jeffrey J. Budd of Melrose, Ohio, had charges of violating a protection order and disorderly conduct dismissed per the state, with court costs of \$280 assessed. In a separate case, Budd was convicted of violating a protection order. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$180 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, credit for 30 days in jail, and compliance with all terms of the civil protection order.

Kati A. Stahl of Continental, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. She was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Stahl was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from December 1, 2025, through December 1, 2027. Special conditions include the option to install an ignition interlock device for unlimited driving privileges and the ability to petition the court after one year to reduce the suspension.

Stephon D. Walker of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of criminal trespass. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$205 in court costs. Walker was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement

# SCOTT EQUITY EXCHANGE MAKING HEADWAY ON NEW BIN PROJECT



Scott Equity Exchange Cooperative is moving forward with a major expansion aimed at increasing grain storage and improving service for local producers. Planning for the project began in the winter of 2024, when discussions first emerged about adding a new grain bin to the cooperative's facilities. Construction on the initiative officially started in mid-summer 2025, with an initial target for completion set for late fall. Despite weather-related delays, crews have continued working through Ohio's challenging winter conditions in an effort to meet project deadlines. Construction of the bin is projected to be finished in time to coincide with the wheat harvest season in June and July.

The expansion includes a new dump pit, grain leg, and a Brock grain bin capable of holding more than 480,000 bushels of grain. With the addition of the new infrastructure, the cooperative's total grain storage capacity will exceed 3.4 million bushels,

marking a significant increase for the operation.

Leaders at Scott Equity Exchange Cooperative say the project is a long-term investment in the region's agricultural economy. The expanded capacity is expected to improve efficiency during peak harvest seasons and provide greater flexibility for area farmers.

Board members and employees expressed enthusiasm about the project's progress and say they look forward to welcoming new customers while continuing to support existing producers. The cooperative anticipates the upgraded facility will play a key role in what they hope will be a productive upcoming season.

Scott Equity Exchange Co., 'For the Farmers,' is ready to assist with fuel, fertilizer, and chemical needs. For more information, contact the Scott location at 419-622-6151 or the Van Wert location at 419-238-1515. Proud to serve our farming community—thank you for your business!

on standard probation, no contact with the victims, completion of 40 hours of community service, completion of the Keeping It in Check class, completion of an evaluation and any recommended treatment, and writing a letter of apology.

Jennifer L. Rust of Payne, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failing to stop for a school bus. She was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Rust was sentenced to 10 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special con-

ditions include completion of a remedial driving course.

Cody L. Adkins of Oakwood, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension, non-compliance. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Leonard J. Feeney III of Melrose, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension, non-compliance. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions in-

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# LAKE JAMES CHRISTIAN CAMP RECEIVES MATCHING GRANT



Angola, IN—Lake James Christian Assembly, known as Lake James Christian Camp (LJCC) has received a \$3.9 million matching grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. through its Capital Project Initiative for Residential Youth Camps. This is one of 40 implementation grants being awarded through phase 3 of the initiative, which aims to help Indiana residential youth camps improve the overall camp experience and outcomes for youth through new, enhanced and expanded facilities integral to quality youth camp programming. The latest grants, which were competitive, are providing partial support for large-scale capital projects.

This grant is in addition to a Lilly Endowment grant of \$1 million made in December 2025 through an earlier round of funding in the Capital Project Initiative for Residential Youth Camps.

These Lilly Endowment grants are a catalyst as LJCC launches a Capital Campaign, with the help of Generis consultants, called the Inspire Initiative to fund an \$8.8 million capital project. The camp will host two Nights of Inspiration May 16th and 17th from 5-7pm to share the vision and plan in detail. To RSVP please contact the camp office at 260-833-2786.

With the grant and matching donations, LJCC will build four new sleeping lodges that will enable the camp to house 350+ campers and guests year-

round. Along with new sleeping lodges, the Steven's Chapel will be renovated inside and out, Memorial Hall will gain handicap accessibility with the addition of an elevator, and a high ropes course will be constructed. The goal is to have several of these projects completed for the camp's 100th anniversary in 2029.

“Our mission is to create experiences that inspire and prepare the next generation to be followers of Jesus. We are extremely grateful for this Lilly Endowment grant as we will be able to make some major facility upgrades that will enhance our camper experience and further our vision to be a premier destination for spiritual transformation. Now more than ever, people are looking for sacred spaces to connect with God and each other without distractions. This is what we do best, and we're committed to improving this experience for the next generation,” said Matthew Love, Executive Director of Lake James Christian Camp and Retreat Center.

“We also want to acknowledge the encouragement and assistance that we received from the staff of the Steuben County Community Foundation. We are blessed to have such a great organization serving non-profits and donors in our community,” added Love.

About Lake James Christian Assembly  
Established in 1929 as Lake James Christian Assembly on

the Lakes' south shore, the camp offers diverse experiences year-round. The Youth Camp and Retreat Center's core values are to serve the next generation, educate and equip, build authentic community, and inspire abundant joy. Programs include Summer Youth Camps and weekend retreats, fostering community and spiritual growth in a beautiful natural setting. They also rent out their facilities to churches, college ministries and non-profits throughout the year to help them accomplish their mission. For more information, please visit <https://www.ljca.org/>

### About Lilly Endowment

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly, Sr. and his sons Eli and J.K. Jr. through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. Although the gifts of stock remain a financial bedrock of the Endowment, it is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. In keeping with the founders' wishes, the Endowment supports the causes of community development, education and religion. The Endowment funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion, and maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana.

wood, Ohio, was convicted of failure to yield at an intersection. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Gregory S. Sherry** of Melrose, Ohio, was convicted of domestic violence. He was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$380 in court costs. Sherry was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining gen-

eral good behavior, placement on standard probation, completion of an evaluation and any recommended treatment, no unlawful contact with the victim, completion of the Keeping It in Check class, completion of online classes, and a risk assessment.

**Brandon M. Cooper** of Grover Hill, Ohio, was convicted of resisting arrest. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Cooper was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with 84 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Shaude A. Moody** of Athens, Alabama, was convicted of a registration violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Souleymane Ndiaye** of Canal Winchester, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Daniel L. Gunderman** of Oakwood, Ohio, was con-

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

**John D. McClellan** of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Justin D. Bennett** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of making a prohibited turn. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Mark A. Johnson** of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$126 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Shawn M. Hart** of Bryan, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Emrakh Akhmedov** of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was convicted of an overlength vehicle violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

### VILLAGE OF CONVOY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM TO OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Come visit at The Village of Convoy Historical Society Museum (located at 111 N. Main Street, Convoy, Ohio). The Museum will be open on Saturdays starting April 11th through October 31st from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free admission - memberships & donations welcome!

Ready to view NOW: The Library Room, The Crestview/Military Room, and Main room displays donated by area residents.

Donations welcome. If you have items from the Convoy area or local businesses that you would like to donate, we would love to have them.

Questions? A Historical Society board member or volunteer will be available on Saturdays to guide visitors, answer questions, and accept donations. Regarding all other questions or to visit by appointment contact Dave Thomas 260-639-2083 or Rose Wherry at 419-513-1092.

## The West Bend News

# Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

### MOM-2-MOM FUNDRAISER RETURNS APRIL 11 TO SUPPORT PAYNE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS



Payne, Ohio - Shoppers looking for great deals while supporting a great cause won't want to miss the upcoming Mom-2-Mom Fundraiser Event on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Payne Elementary Gym, 501 W. Townline St., Payne, OH 45880.

Hosted by the Payne Elementary PTO, this community-wide event features 25 vendors bringing a wide variety of gently used items — clothing, toys, accessories, and so much more. New this year, the event will also feature local vendors and raffle items, adding even more reasons to stop by.

Joining the event this year are several local vendors, including Aromatherapy by Brittany, Farm Momma-Ru, Bokos Ice Cream, Huston Homestead, Deja Brew, and Worry Wally by Sara Philipot.

The Mom-2-Mom Event serves as a fundraiser for the Payne Elementary PTO, with proceeds supporting playground improvements and other PTO-sponsored projects that directly benefit Payne Elementary students.

For more information, contact (by text) 260-300-0355 or email: [payneschoolpto@gmail.com](mailto:payneschoolpto@gmail.com)

Mark your calendar and come ready to find some amazing deals! And don't miss the 50% off discount from noon to 1:00 p.m. — the perfect reason to stick around until the end. Whether you're shopping for the kids, searching for a hidden gem, or just browsing, the Mom-2-Mom Sale is the perfect community event for local families.

For updates and event reminders, follow Payne Elementary PTO on social media.

clude the return of the defendant's identification card.

**Sheri S. Kraegel** of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Drake M. Sanders** of Grover Hill, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Robert A. Schick** of Oak-

### \*\* NOTICE \*\*

## VILLAGE OF PAULDING CEMETERY SPRING CLEANUP

By order of the Village of Paulding Cemetery Board of Trustees, all older weathered wreaths, flowers, grave blankets and decorations on the graves at Live Oak and Paulding Memorial Cemeteries are to be removed by April 12, 2026. Anything weathered, damaged or prohibited at the gravesites after that date will be removed. New decorations may be replaced after May 1, 2026.

Due to safety concerns, shepherds hooks, plant hangers, decorative stones, mulch, statues, solar lights, perpetual lights, wreaths on stands (or not on headstones), etc. are prohibited. Any items not directly on the headstones or its foundation will be disposed of.

Please refer to the rules and regulations for Paulding cemeteries which are available on our web-site at [www.villageofpaulding.com](http://www.villageofpaulding.com).

Cemetery Board of Trustees  
The Village of Paulding

### PUBLIC NOTICES

Village of Cecil regular council meetings are held on the 4th Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Cecil Firehouse community room.

If you would like to be added to the agenda please contact the village of Cecil Clerk at 419-399-0520 or via email [villageofcecil@yahoo.com](mailto:villageofcecil@yahoo.com)

The unaudited financial records for 2025 have been completed and are available for inspection by contacting Carlene Turner clerk for the village of Cecil at 419-399-0520 or via the village email [villageofcecil@yahoo.com](mailto:villageofcecil@yahoo.com)

## The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

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

1 – EMERGENCY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE – Provide short term financial assistance to eligible veterans and their families who demonstrate a need. This includes, but is not limited to, food, gas, mortgage/rent and assistance with utility payments.

2 – CLAIMS ASSISTANCE – Provide services for veterans and other claimants for help with VA claims for any federal, state, or local benefits.

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

Our office hours are Tuesday thru Friday, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

# MARCH GENEROSITY MADNESS RAISES \$22,570 FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS



2026 RESULTS DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION

## MARCH GENEROSITY MADNESS

The Defiance Area Foundation recently concluded its 2026 March Generosity Madness campaign, raising a total of \$22,570 to support local school funds in Defiance County.

Northeastern Local Schools, Tinora finished the campaign in first place raising \$15,600, followed by Defiance City Schools who raised \$5,370, Central Local Schools Fairview who raised \$1,160, and Ayersville Local

Schools who raised \$440. Funds raised during the campaign will support a variety of educational needs including classroom resources, student scholarships, innovative learning opportunities, and teacher mini-grants at each school.

The Foundation would like to thank the School Champions who helped lead the campaign at each school (L to R) Mak Cooler (Defiance), Kendra Waldron (Ay-

ersville), Brady Woolace (Tinora), Anthony Singer & Erica Collins (Fairview).

March Generosity Madness is an annual community fundraising campaign that encourages friendly competition between local schools while building long-term funds that support students and teachers for years to come. Donations to the school funds can be made year-round through the Defiance Area Foundation.

# WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANNOUNCES MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Pictured above are the Payne Elementary Student's of the Month for March. These students were chosen for demonstrating the character value 'Consideration'. From left to right are (front row) Ella Danner, Ella Carnahan, E'Aliyah Sullivan, Quentin Coutts, Kane Hosler, Teddy Alix, Easton Sherry, and Kinlee Lamb; (back row) Miguel Gambler, Emersyn Showalter, Mason Clevenger, Dylainee Carr, Addie Litzenberg, Jeremy Seibert, and Braiden Hitchcock. (not pictured) Hudson Gouker, Abby Navarrio-Perez, Addy Pierce and Sam Wilson.

(Continued from Page 7)

Wayne Trace tallied 10 hits in the contest, led by Addyson LaBounty, who recorded three singles, scored twice, and drove in a run. Sam Williams added a single and a triple while scoring a run and collecting an RBI. Brooke Tigner contributed two singles and an RBI, while Alicia Bahena

singled and scored. Avery Noffsinger added a base hit and a run, and Elly Rickard also recorded a single.

Van Wert was led by Haley Dunlap, who doubled and scored a run, and Grace Kitson, who singled, scored, and drove in a run. Lauren Gearhart added two singles, and Layla Suddeth chipped in a base hit.

Despite both teams committing three errors, Wayne Trace capitalized when it mattered most, using a four-run seventh inning to secure the victory.

### LEARN HOW TO START A FAMILY CHILDCARE PROGRAM AT DPL

Interested in starting your own family childcare program? Visit Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., on April 16 from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for a special program on the topic, presented by Sam Burns of the YWCA.

Burns will share where to start and how to apply for a license, plus answer some of the most common questions.

There will also be an open office hour following the presentation for anyone who would like more information.

This program is free and open to all adults. To register, call the YWCA at 419-225-5519 or email tgreenberg@ywcawno.org.

### ROSSWURM LEADS WAYNE TRACE TO 14-0 SHUTOUT OF EASTWOOD

Wayne Trace put together a dominant performance on March 28, rolling past East-

wood 14-0 in a five-inning shutout.

The Raiders came out swinging, erupting for eight runs in the first inning to take immediate control. They added two runs in each of the next three innings to finish with 14 runs on 10 hits, while limiting Eastwood to just four hits in the contest.

Brody Rosswurm was outstanding on the mound and at the plate for Wayne Trace. He earned the win with a complete five-inning shutout, allowing four hits while striking out eight and walking three. Offensively, Rosswurm contributed a single and a home run, scoring twice and driving in two runs.

Eastwood's Erich Hepler took the loss after allowing 12 runs (four earned) on nine hits over three innings, striking out three and walking seven. Tanner Jensen pitched the final inning, giving up two runs—none earned—on one hit while striking out one and walking two.

Wayne Trace's offense was productive throughout the lineup. Carter Clemens recorded two singles, scored twice, and drove in a run, while Jack Schoenauer added two singles, a run, and two RBIs. Tanner Laukhuf singled, scored two runs, and drove in two, and Blake Noggle contributed a single, a run, and two RBIs.

Caden Sinn doubled and scored twice, and Carter Baumle added a single and two runs. Jonathan Sterrett drove in a run, while Kahne Mansfield and Micah Sinn each scored.

Eastwood's hits came from Cam Schumaker, Jack Sensenig, Andy Lautzenheiser, and Hepler, each recording a single.

With strong pitching and an explosive start at the plate, Wayne Trace secured the convincing shutout victory.

### VETERANS NATIONAL MEMORIAL SHRINE & MUSEUM ANNOUNCES FUNDRAISING DRIVE FOR AGENT ORANGE VICTIMS MEMORIAL

In a ceremony honoring Vietnam Veterans Day, it was announced that the Veterans Memorial 2122 O'Day Road in Fort Wayne is starting a fund raising drive to build a tribute to all Veterans who have died from the effects of Agent Orange.

According to 1st Vice Commander Eric Johnson "over 2.6 million soldiers served in the Vietnam War. Over 300,000 have died from illnesses and diseases caused by the chemical used to kill vegetation and foliage in the jungle." Johnson was told by the VA that "If you were boots on the ground, you were most likely exposed to this deadly chemical." He said, "you might have survived the war and made it home but the battle never ends for those exposed to the chemical."

Most deaths caused by the use of dioxin exposure occurred years and decades after the war ended. Causes of death are typically various cancers, heart disease, diabetes and Parkinson's disease.

Donations are being accepted at the Museum or by sending to P.O. Box 26 Arcola, IN 46704. Veterans Memorial is a 501 (C) (3) charitable organization.

For more information contact the Shrine Office at 260-267-5022

### REPUBLICAN CENTRAL COMMITTEE APPOINTS NEW PROSECUTOR, DISCUSSES UPCOMING EVENTS



Matthew Miller and his wife, Wendy, are congratulated by Laurie Lucas for his new position of County Prosecutor.

The Paulding County Republican Central Committee met Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in Paulding with Chair Laurie Lucas presiding. Members present included Cheryl Stromski, Laurie Lucas, Paul Ludwig, Jan Commers, David Burtch, Michael Strable, Matt McDougall, Mark Bennett, Shannon Ruschel, Matt Miller, Caleb Miller, and Harry Wiebe, along with several guests. Sympathy was extended to Caleb Miller and his family following the passing of his sister.

Following the pledge of allegiance and roll call, the committee moved into business with the treasurer's report presented in Treasurer Barry Rupp's absence. The committee approved payment of several bills, including \$130 for an ad in the Paulding County Township Association Trustees Handbook, \$157.75 for ad design work, and \$55 for a fair trophy.

The primary action item of the evening was the appointment of a new Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney. Due to the retirement of Joseph R. Burkhardt effective February 28, 2026, the committee, as authorized under Ohio law, voted to appoint Matthew A. Miller to fill the vacancy. After the resolution was read and discussed, a motion was made and unanimously approved to appoint Miller, effective immediately. Miller will serve until a successor is elected and qualified.

In her report, Chair Laurie Lucas shared updates on recent political events, including attendance at a fundraiser for Jim Hoops. She also highlighted the upcoming Republican Women's meeting scheduled for April 8 at Fiesta Habanero, noting that plans for the upcoming Meet the Candidate Soup and Sandwich Supper would be finalized. The April 14th "Meet the Candidate Night" will be at St. John's Lutheran Fellowship Hall with approximately 19 candidates scheduled to attend, including multiple can-

didates for Secretary of State, Ohio Supreme Court, and the 9th Congressional District.

This event is just ahead of the May primary election. Members were encouraged to attend and participate in event preparations.

Under old business, the committee discussed plans for the Paulding County Fair, including tent rental, trophies, and booth setup scheduled for early June. Members agreed to pursue improvements to the party's parade float, including potential repairs, repainting, and updated signage following the primary election.

New business included discussion of participating in the nation's upcoming 250th anniversary celebration. Ideas included selling themed merchandise such as flags and t-shirts at the fair and creating a Republican Party banner for use at community events.

The committee also discussed increasing public visibility by submitting regular meeting summaries to local media and posting updates on social media platforms. It was agreed that summaries would be prepared monthly to keep the public informed.

During elected officials' reports, Board of Elections representatives provided updates on the May primary election. Early voting will begin April 7, with extended hours closer to Election Day. Due to a scheduling conflict at Wayne Trace, voting in certain precincts will be relocated to the Grover Hill VFW, with notifications being mailed to affected voters.

Commissioner Mike Weible highlighted ongoing efforts to separate Paulding County Job and Family Services from Defiance County, with a new director hired and a transition planned for completion by July 1. He also noted continued progress on a solar energy project expected to reduce county energy costs.

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein addressed ongoing discussions regarding property taxes and unfunded state mandates. He noted that while some legislative changes

## 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**

## DERCK'S LANDSCAPING SUPPLIES

**15193 Rd. 45**

**Antwerp, Ohio 45813**

**419-506-1902**

**MULCH COLORS:**

**Red, Brown and Black**

**Black Dirt, Small Gravel and River Rock**

**Call for Special Orders**

have been made to limit tax increases, broader reforms remain complex due to the structure of local funding and state requirements. Committee members engaged in extended discussion on property taxes, school funding, and government efficiency. The meeting concluded

with appreciation expressed for local emergency responders following recent severe weather, and members were reminded that the next Central Committee meeting will be held Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

**PROMEDICA DEFIANCE REGIONAL HOSPITAL SUPPORTS COMMUNITY IMPACT WITH GALA SPONSORSHIP**



Pictured representing the sponsorship are (L to R) Katie Groff Held- Defiance Area Foundation Gala Committee Member and Keith Burmeister- ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital President.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to announce that ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital has committed a \$2,000 sponsorship as a Bronze Sponsor for the Foundation's 2026 Gala, scheduled for October 3.

Fund, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations serving Defiance County and addresses emerging community needs.

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful for ProMedica Defiance Regional Hospital's support and continued commitment to the health and well-being of the community.

**PAULDING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION SCHEDULED MEETING**

The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association will meet the second Tuesday of the month, April 14, at 11:30 at the Paulding Pancake House. The topic for discussion will be Artificial Intelligence.

Partnerships to Paulding County high school seniors who are planning to enter the field of education. If unable to attend members are asked to mail dues and scholarship donations to treasurer, Marcia Wiebe, 809 TomTim Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879. These funds will be used for the 2026 scholarships.

**PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET**

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, April 15 at 1:00 p.m. Defiance County Senior Services, 140 E. Broadway, Defiance, Ohio. Speaker will be Jill Little, Defiance County Auditor. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

**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

**Saturday, April 11th, 2026**  
**Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**  
**SALT SALE**  
**H<sub>2</sub>O Water Stores**  
 Your "Everything Water" Store  
**All Salt Pallet Pricing**  
 208 S. Main St.  
 Antwerp, OH  
 (419) 258-2684

North American Salt Company

**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**

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

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

**SEEDS FOR YOUR VICTORY GARDEN - FOR SALE or SWAP.** Interested? Txt 419-258-0656

**WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY THIRD NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26**

**THIRD GRADE:**

All A's - Aliyah Duer, Levi Laukhuf, Tessa Stoller, Kanin May, Brookelyn Plummer

All A&B's - Elizabeth Baksa, Toby Beining, Grayson Bacock, Owen Densmore, Addy Okang, Kolby Reichert, Venna Ruble, Tatum Treece, Dale Clutter, Harper Hogue, Diego Morales, Emmy Okang, Kaylee Stoller

**FOURTH GRADE:**

All A's - Ava Beining, Clara Laukhuf, Gracelynn Shelton, Kipton Jay, Aizlee Ricker, Kinsley Sinn, Mason Stoller, Bentley Wright

**FIFTH GRADE:**

All A's - Emery LaBounty, Addy Noffsinger, Allison Rojas Palma, Aleyah Stoller

All A&B's - Landyn Miller, Gabe Schlatter, Katelyn Plummer, Clara Porter, Aden Stoller

All B's - Marlie-Jane Clutter

**SIXTH GRADE:**

All A's - Evan Heier, Brianna McClure, Jase Miller, Austin Stoller, Lyla Stoller, Jayde Sinn

All A&B's - Allison Donaldson, Mia Kamphaus, Alirah Ricker, Gaberial Spangler, Chandler Sinn

All B's - Sophia Canfield, Jude Miller

**WAYNE TRACE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL THIRD QUARTER HONOR ROLL 2025-26**

\*signifies 4.0  
**SENIOR:**

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0) - Hailey Duncan, Ian Jewell, \*Riley Manz, \*Estrella Martinez Sandoval, \*Raegan McGarvey, \*Caitlyn Mead, \*Aubree Miller, \*Lexi Moore, \*Natalie Richie, Micah Sinn, \*Torree Sinn, \*Clay Stoller, \*Emma Stouffer, \*Mylie Wittwer

**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.**

**DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!**  
**RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 14-16**

Chloe McClure, Ryan Parker, Jack Schoenauer, Zoey Schultz, Deklyn Schweinsberg, Caden Sinn, Amber Stoller, Lance Whitman, Samaria Williams, Griffin Williamson, Sierra Young

**JUNIOR:**

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0) - Anna Manz, \*Cole Manz, \*Blake Noggle, \*Noah Schlater, \*Amber Stoller, \*Eli Treece

Honor Roll (3.0-3.79) - Katelynn Bauer, Leah Bland, Ella Crosby, Isabel Gilbert, Sirius Jackson, McKenzie Johnson, Stefany Lopez-Castillo, Brody Rosswurm, Johnalynn Shellenbarger, Zachary Stoller, Arianna Viola, Campbell Volk, Monica Williams

**SOPHOMORE:**

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0) - Caylie Baker, Jensen Beining, Brinna Collins, \*Kendall Denning, Lilly Holbrook, \*Xylem Kashner, \*Jenna Kipfer, \*Addyson LaBounty, \*Ashlyn Manz, Cayla Noggle, Kenzie Ogle, \*Aukele Schmidt, Peyton Sennebogen, \*Lilly Shepherd, Damara Stephney-Baldazo, \*Brooke Tignor, \*Owen Welch, Nora Wenninger

Honor Roll (3.0-3.79) - Anabelle Bidlack, Cheyenne Brimmer, Connor Burriss, Brisa Chavez, Elynn Clemens, Jaxon Cook, Columbia Dempsey, Alyvia Essex, Jada Gross, Devon Huckabaa, Emma Hurd, Faith Jacobs, Isabella Lowe, Kahne Mansfield, Brenan Miller, Luke Miller, Reece Morehead, Avery Noffsinger, Madison Pease, Aries Ricker, Braylen Ross, Braxton Schnipke, Savannah Sinn, Aubrie Stoller, Alyvia Thomas, Alivia Thrasher, Karsyn Troth

**FRESHMEN:**

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0) - \*Kendall Folsom, \*Addilynn Gerardot, \*Easton Jay, \*Kinlee Miller, Makenna Schilt, \*Jonah Sinn, \*Brooke Stoller, \*Corbin Stoller, \*Jennifer Treece, Ehvajejan Trentman, \*Emma Whitman

Honor Roll (3.0-3.79) - Abigail Baker, Nathan Benschneider, Aaron Bohland, Victoria Burgei, Gabrielle Gurney, Blaize Karhoff, Evelyn Lyons, Sophia Marshall-Mencarelli, Waylon McCord, Elliot Parady, Ellyona Rickard, Grace Ringler, Ian Scarberry, Paige Schang, Addison Sennebogen, Layla Shellenbarger, Madison Silance, Brayden

Sinn, Braylin Sinn, Luke Stoller, Olivia Stoller, Witt Stoller, Abigail Tarlton, Abbie Williams, Maxton Williamson, Skylar Young

**JH Honor Roll (3.0-4.0):**

8th grade - Jocelyn Adkins, \*Brenna Beining, Carson Blair, Hudsyn Burkley, Ross Carter, Calvin Coffman, Logan Cozart, Krandon Crites, Piper Densmore, Avah Farris, Wyatt Head, Jordan Howell, \*Katelynn Hurd, \*Lauren Kipfer, Aubree Lamb, Connie Landwehr, Natalie Lord, Jocelyn Mabis, Kenzie Manz, Olivander McCague, Miranda McCord, Ryleigh McGarvey, Griffin Miller, Madysyn Morehead, Scarlett Naff, Antonia Negrete Pawoli, Megan Parker, Audrey Reuille, \*Calliope Stanford, Kolson Stoller, Lienna Stoller, \*Mailey Stoller, \*Avery Welch

7th grade - Shawn Bradford, Londyn Dargenson, Aubrey Fairley, Abrie Hurd, Beckett Jay, Grayson LaBounty, Clare Linder, Jennifer Lopez-Castillo, Brynlee Maenle, Rilee Martin, Kaylee Miller, Briana Rupp, Samuel Schabbing, \*Sawyer Schlatter, Jaxson Shelton, Luke Shepherd, \*Aylan Stoller, \*Shawna Stoller, Devon Tumblin, Nuria Valdez Velazquez, Emma Wilcox

**VANTAGE:**

12th grade - Tyler Blankenship, William Bourgei, \*Caleb Cox, Audrey Dougal, \*Ethan Fisher, Laura Garberson, Jordan Hale, Steven Howe, Justin Lyons, Cole Miller, Lucas Morehead, \*Tamara Negrete Pawoli, \*Delana Noggle, \*Eric Reinhart, \*Myleigh Sheets, Zander Warren, Kaden Wilcox, Careen Winans, \*Caroline Winans

11th grade - Carter Baumle, Addisyn Bradtmueller, Chris Dilling, \*Alex Doster, \*Elizabeth Graham, Ben Gurney, Miley Jacobs, Colton Kimmel, \*Reece Olwin, Logan Kimmelp, Grayson Sutton, Corbin Varner, Olivia Zartman

**PAULDING MIDDLE SCHOOL THIRD NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26**

**SIXTH GRADE**

All A's - Sienna Harris, Laney Cooper, Miller Caroline, Reilly Mackenzie, Reno Angelica (Angel), Rosalez Nolan, Wesley Isabella (Bella), Wirts Rya

All A's & B's - Georgiana (Georgie) Arend, Kiersten Arend, Cristopher Bautista Enriquez, Carter Crossland, Logan Dasher, Nolan Doctor, Isabella (Bella) Gonzales, Leigha Hahn, Alexis Kennedy, Kamden (Kam) Laney, Cadence Lee, Maggie Martinez, Rebeka (Beka) Mericle, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Miller, Sage Paputsakis-Mead, Christopher Pender, Brooklynn Richards, Zarla Ross, Delilah (DJ) Rymer, Jeremiah Sajuan, Kaitlynn Seymour, Sophia Smith, Bay Snyder, Ella Spangler, Zoey-Nichole (Zoey) Watson, Landen White

**SEVENTH GRADE**

All A's - Kyra Aldred, Edalynne (Edda) Hardt, Michael

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

*Sudoku solution from page 9*

Hastings, Raelyn Haynes, Alexandria (Allie) Manz, Connor Manz, Adalyn Miller, Devin Scott, Kinley Sunday

All A's & B's - Logan Apkarian, Alanna Bassler, Liam Batt, Teagan Bland, Cooper Boroff, Hunter Bullinger, Mia Cameron, Eva Densmore, Mallory Elder, Harmony Finch, Katiope Foor, Julia Hull, Ryan Lin, Jaxson Lindsey, Dasha Lopez Santiago, Margaux Luty, Zoey Manz, Ximena (Sofi) Martinez, Carter Naugle, Clara Nicholson, Jaden Norling, Kaylee Pack, Kinsley Pease, Melissa Ramirez Cortes, Perla Reyes, Kolten Ringler, Jack Roddy, Cierra Smith, Morgan Snyder, Viktor Steingass, Trenit Valle, Reagan Wilson

**EIGHTH GRADE:**

All A's - Katherine Arend, Finnegan (Finn) Bradford, Nahla Carlisle, Madison Durham, Abisai Escobar, Elayna Kleman, Symon Manz, Lylah Schlueter, Ella Zimmerman

All A's & B's - Annaleise (Anna) Baughman, Kimber Boroff, Legend Buckler, Harrison (Harry) Coll, Lillian (Lilly) Gunderman, Brayden Keeling, Miranda Lewis, Weston Manz, Ariadna (Aria) Meza Herrera, Avaein Mezuk, Balan Miller, Gage Parrett, Piper Pease, Kenneth (Kenny) Peffley, Gage Ramey, Hudson Spangler, Mason Weible

**I-469 EXIT RAMP TO CLOSE FOR CONSTRUCTION**

ALLEN COUNTY, Ind. - The Indiana Department of Transportation announces the closure of an I-469 off-ramp for bridge construction over Harber Ditch.

Starting on or after April 6, crews will close the off-ramp at eastbound Exit 6 from I-469 to State Road 1/Bluffton Road. Work on the project is expected to be complete by the end of May. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

During the closure, eastbound traffic needing to access S.R. 1/Bluffton Road should continue east on I-469 to the Exit 9 interchange with Winchester Road, exit the interstate and re-enter heading west to then exit at westbound Exit 6. Drivers may also seek an alternative route.

INDOT encourages drivers to consider safety for all by slowing down, using extra caution and driving distraction-free when travelling in and around all work zones.

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## OHIO LOCAL HISTORY ALLIANCE CELEBRATES CAROL RAZO AT REGIONAL MEETING



PAULDING, OH — The Paulding County History Museum proudly hosted the Ohio Local History Alliance Region 1 Meeting on Saturday, March 28, welcoming representatives from 11 counties for a full day of connection and celebration of local history.

A highlight of the day was the recognition of Crane Township Fiscal Officer Carol Razo, who received the Ohio Local History Alliance's Outstanding Achievement Award for Local History Projects—an honor that reflects an extraordinary commitment to preserving and sharing local history.

Carol's work is a powerful example of how local history connects communities across time and place. Through self-funded research trips spanning three states, she un-

covered the long-overlooked story of Oliver Crane, the township's namesake. Her research led to the creation of a full-color, hardcover commemorative book documenting 200 years of Crane Township history, and she played a central role in organizing a township-wide bicentennial celebration that brought the entire community together in a meaningful way.

While her efforts were supported by many, including the Crane Township Trustees and Fire Department, the Friends of the Paulding Park District, and the Paulding County History Museum, Carol's vision, passion, and dedication were the driving force behind the project's success. She was joined at the meeting by her husband, Art, and family members, whose support has

been instrumental throughout her journey.

The meeting itself was a tremendous success, with attendees offering enthusiastic feedback on the museum's major kitchen renovation. Guests also enjoyed guided tours led by Kim Sutton, who shared engaging stories that brought Paulding County's rich history to life.

A special thanks to Puckerbrush Pizza for catering an exceptional meal that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Paulding County History Museum extends its sincere gratitude to the many volunteers who have dedicated countless hours to preparing the museum during its renovation and ensuring the success of this event. Their continued commitment makes opportunities like this possible and strengthens the museum's role as an institution for preserving and sharing local history.

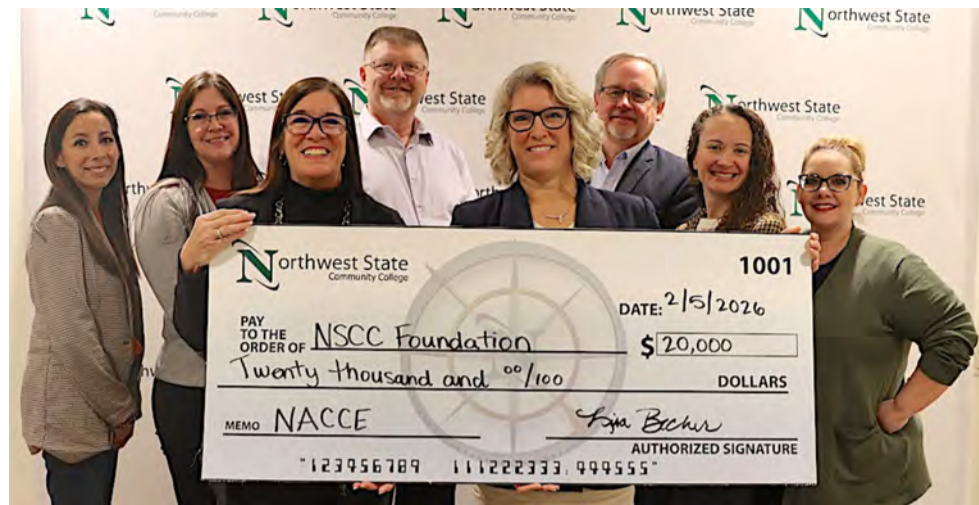
The museum's President, Mel White, encourages everyone to mark their calendar and plan on attending the Annual Membership Meeting and program, which is being planned for Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

To stay up to date on museum news and upcoming events, follow the Paulding County History Museum on Facebook.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE IN PAULDING

The Paulding County Carnegie Library in conjunction with the Paulding Writers' Group is pleased to announce their 3rd Annual Writers' Conference will be

## \$20K INVESTMENT MADE IN THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN THE FIVE COUNTY AREA



Pictured are (front row, l-r) Robbin Wilcox, Ex. Dir.-Development and NSCC Foundation, and Lisa Becher, NSCC business faculty and Director of Small Business Development Center at NSCC; (back row, l-r) Jennifer Arps, Henry Co. CIC Dir.; Ashley Epling, Williams Co. CIC Director; Tim Copey, Paulding Co. CIC Director; Jim Wyse, Fulton Co. CIC Director; Cara Boehm, Dir. of Bus. Dev. & Marketing Defiance Co.; Erika Willitzer, Defiance Co. CIC Dir.

Northwest State Community College celebrates the spirit of entrepreneurship and the power of small business and partnership through the combined efforts of NACCE and Economic Development offices of Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding and Williams Counties. NSCC is hosting its 12th annual Entrepreneurship Forum on Thursday, April 30th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in the Voinovich Auditorium. This FREE event is open to all residents of the participating counties with a business idea and want to move it forward.

Access to capital remains one of the greatest barriers facing new business owners—

particularly those with limited financial resources or restricted cash flow. Seed funding can help entrepreneurs purchase equipment, strengthen marketing and sales efforts, and expand their customer base. The 2026 Entrepreneurship Forum provides entrepreneurs the opportunity to present their ideas to a panel of experts from the region, and to network with those experts — both very valuable experiences. The panel will be comprised of Economic Development representatives from each of the five counties, a "People's Choice" award of \$250 will be sponsored by

WesBanco, and another \$250 tech-based award will be sponsored by the Mercy Health — Toledo's Innovation Program.

The competition is supported by a \$10,000 grant from the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) through its Everyday Entrepreneur Program, along with \$2,000 from each participating county's Economic Development office, to be allocated at their discretion. Together, these funds will provide critical startup capital to help offset early operating expenses and accelerate business growth.

"The NACCE Everyday Entrepreneur team is thrilled to continue our partnership with Northwest State Community College," said Lydia Perez-Kavanagh, Project Coordinator for NACCE. "We have enjoyed watching the momentum and success Northwest State has built through the Everyday Entrepreneur program, and we are excited for what lies ahead. We are especially grateful to Lisa Becher, whose leadership, dedication, and tireless effort continue to make the Everyday Entrepreneur program a powerful force for student and community impact at Northwest State."

Registration is required and a fee of \$45 includes breakfast and lunch. Space is limited for this event so register early. Join us for encouragement in your writing. Meet published authors who will speak on topics that include Writing from Your Experiences, Putting Pen to Paper, Publishing Pathways, Pantser Observations, Poetry is for everyone and more. Call the library at 419-399-2032 or stop by the library for more information and to get registered.

Register for the Forum by emailing Lisa Becher at [LBecher@NorthwestState.edu](mailto:LBecher@NorthwestState.edu) or [NWOHioSBDC@gmail.com](mailto:NWOHioSBDC@gmail.com). Registration is required for everyone and is free of charge. Space is limited, so early registration is strongly encouraged. "Free consultation services will be provided by the Small Business Development Center," Becher said. Of note, a presentation template is required, and is available by contacting Lisa Becher at the email addresses above.

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### IMPORTANT DEADLINE NOTICE!



Due to travel, **West Bend News & West Bend Printing** will **NOT** be accepting new design work

**April 14-23**

Our design team will have **limited access** to email and internet during this time.

All orders in process and repeat orders will be handled as usual.

Please submit early:

✓ News Articles

✓ Advertising Materials

✓ Print Orders

to ensure **deadlines** are met.

Thank you for your understanding and support!