

SECOND TORNADO IN LESS THAN A WEEK STRIKES DEFIANCE COUNTY



Several trees were uprooted and broken off during the April 4th storms that ravaged Defiance, OH. Pictured above is one of the trees that uprooted in Riverside Cemetery in Defiance. Photo by Crystal Willitzer.

DEFIANCE COUNTY, OH — The National Weather Service has confirmed that an EF-1 tornado touched down in Defiance County on the afternoon of April 4, as part of a line of severe storms that moved through the region.

According to officials, the tornado reached peak winds of 95 miles per hour and carved a path approximately 4.08 miles long. The tornado's maximum width was esti-

mated at 225 yards — about 675 feet — as it moved across the county.

The tornado developed between Junction and Defiance and traveled northeast, clipping the southeast side of Defiance. The most significant damage was reported in the area of Davidson Street and South Clinton Street within the city.

The tornado was on the ground for a brief but impact-

ful period, with a confirmed timeframe between 2:18 p.m. and 2:24 p.m.

Emergency responders and residents reported multiple downed trees and power lines along the storm's path. Some homes also sustained damage, though the full extent is still being assessed at press time.

This marks the second severe weather event to impact

(Continued on Page 3)

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

This year celebrates the 43rd year since April was designated National Child Abuse Prevention Month. On Wednesday, April 8, 2026, all

were invited everyone to WEAR BLUE to show unity, and as a symbol of awareness and commitment to protecting children.

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF), serving the state chapter for "Prevent

Child Abuse America," takes the time each April to raise awareness and try to keep families strong and to prevent child abuse. Additionally, our Paulding County Family & Children First Council's (FCFC) current initiative is to "reduce child abuse and neglect in Paulding County by providing families educational services and supports through our Early Intervention, Help Me Grow - Home Visiting, (FCFC) Service Coordination programs".

The Ohio Children's Trust Fund (OCTF) is excited to share that for National Child Abuse Prevention Month, they will be hosting five webi-

(Continued on Page 5)

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MARKS MAJOR MILESTONE FOR PAULDING VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT



Many hands had a chance to get the first dig at the groundbreaking of the Paulding Veterans Memorial on April 9th. Pictured above is one group who took a dig: Paulding Mayor, Greg White; VFW Post #587 member John Daeger; PC Treasurer Lou Ann Wannemacher; and PC Commissioner Mark Holtsberry.

PAULDING – Community members, veterans organizations, and local leaders gathered on April 9, 2026, to celebrate the official groundbreaking of the Paulding Veterans Memorial, a project years in the making that honors those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

The memorial park is being created as a tribute to both past and present service mem-

bers, recognizing their contributions to preserving the nation's freedom. Organizers emphasized that the space is intended for the entire community, offering a place of reflection, remembrance, and appreciation.

The project began on April 6, 2023, when the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) initiated efforts to bring the memorial to life under the leadership of

(Continued on Page 3)

Local Advertisers appreciating local news

Alaska Breeze	10
Antwerp Exchange Bank	6
Antwerp Insurance	4
Bridge Trailer	11
Creative Design & Construction	1
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Dooley FH – McCollum obituary	2
Dooley Funeral Home	2
Ebel's Butcher Shop	12
Edward Jones	5
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Five Star Construction	1
Friend Flooring	1
Hicksville Village Help Wanted	11
Holtzberry for Commissioner	11
Huber Opera House Prizewinner	6
Innovative Assembly Help Wanted	11
Klopfenstein Repair	8
Paulding Veterans	4
PC Court Notice CI 26-053	9
PC Veteran's Service	3
PCH Spring Health Fair	6
PUZZLE – CW Union Bank	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
S&H Lawn Mowing & Yard Services	3
Sam Brandenberger & Sons	3
Sauder Feeds	8
Sauder Feeds Help Wanted	12
Schmucker Construction	1
Schrader - Ehle	10
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Woodburn & Grabill Hardware	10
Woodburn Lions Club	7

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 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

April 17

- CC Banks Presents Chicago @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 7:30p

April 18

- Arts Festival @ Antwerp School, 4-9p

- Taylor Chapel Spring Craft Bazaar @ Taylor Chapel Ministries, FW, 9a-2p

- Pink Out Katie's Cancer Benefit @ Antwerp VFW, 4p

April 19

- CC Banks Presents Chicago @ Studio 211, Antwerp, 2p

April 22

- Spring Lunch @ 1st Christian Church, Paulding, 11:30a-1p

April 23

- Beeswax Class @ Antwerp Library, 4p

April 24

- Plant & Sip Fundraiser @ April's Greenhouse, Bryan, 6:30p

April 25

- Woodburn Lions Club Opening Day Donuts @ Harlan Park, 7-11a

- Ohio Goes to the Movies: The Prize Winner of Defiance @ Huber, 7p

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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OBITUARIES

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



PAYNE, OH:

Lorean Y. McCollum, 93, of Payne, passed away Thursday, April 2, 2026, at Parkview Regional Medical Center.

Lorean was born in Payne on July 28, 1932, a daughter of the late Edith (Betts) & Raymond Burkley.

Lorean was a familiar and cherished presence in her community, having worked as a dedicated bank teller in Payne for over 30 years. Generations of customers were greeted by her warm smile and steady kindness. Lorean also worked for Payne's board of public affairs for 55 years and also at the Paulding Marathon. She served her community on the Payne EMS for over 20 years. Outside of work, she was actively involved in the Ladies American Legion and found joy in simple pleasures—mowing her lawn and many other neighbor's lawns, tending to her flowers, and spending as much time outdoors as she could. She also enjoyed planning and taking bus trips with others around the community. She was a faithful member of the Payne Church of the Nazarene. Lorean held her family close to her heart, she loved them deeply and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Lorean is survived by her children, Terry (Lona) & Shirley (Dan) Workman; brother, Duane Burkley; 4 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; & 2 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter; & siblings, Orlea Seely, Dorce Burkley, Veda Crawford, & Lula Saylor.

Service is Tuesday, April 7th at 10:30 AM with viewing one hour prior at Dooley Funeral Home, Payne.

She will be laid to rest in Wiltsie Cemetery.

Memorials are to Dooley Funeral Home, to help with funeral expenses.

Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com



April 1956: Spectators at the wreck of the Nickel late freight train in Oakwood are pictured looking over some of the damage. Shown above are freight cars, some of which were torn open. Salvage operations were under way.

By: **MELINDA KRICK**

35 Years Ago

From the Antwerp Bee Argus, April 17, 1991:

Desert Storm Troops Coming Home - Terra Schmidt of Paulding and Robert Scott are home. Martin Beck is joining his family this week. SPC Robert Phillips returns home this week.

The theme for the 1991 Antwerp Days Parade is "Our Past, Our Present, Our Future." Shane Gaisford entered this theme in the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce's contest at the elementary school. Second prize goes to Leslye Bowers and third prize to Brian Shuherk.

From the Paulding County Progress, April 17, 1991:

Members and guests of the Paulding County Home Extension Clubs observed their annual achievement night. Several club members will be recognized at the Ohio Home Extension Convention. The Latta-Wa Ladies Club will accept two state awards. Three Latta-Wa Ladies, Sharon McClure, Robin Farris and Kathy Denny, will receive recognition during the state cultural arts fair. Cindy Skiver of the Busy Neighbors Club and Virginia Cooper of the Everwilling Club also will be recognized for their skills.

Dorthea Schaefer's weekly column, "The Spice Rack," is celebrating its 20th anniversary. Dorthea started in April 1971 under the title "Making

the Scene." She estimates she has written at least 1,000 columns so far.

70 Years Ago

From the Paulding Progress, April 19, 1956:

Heavy property damage to rolling equipment and railroad right-of-way occurred when 44 loaded cars on an eastbound Nickel Plate Railroad freight train derailed in Oakwood last Thursday morning and piled up into a twisted pile of broken freight cars and assorted merchandise. The scene of the accident was approximately 200 feet east of the viaduct where the railroad crosses over Route 66. The train was being pulled by two steam powered engines with a total of 81 cars. About 500 feet of trackage and roadbed on the main line of the railroad was torn up just west of the Oakwood freight and passenger depot. Cars were stacked up three deep. Officials said the total property loss could run well over \$500,000.

Rapid progress is being made on the new multi-million cement plant being built about 2 miles north of Paulding by the Consolidated Cement Corp. The construction is ahead of schedule, as the original announcement in August was that the plant was expected to be in operation in the fall of '56. Many of the crews have been working around the clock in the construction of the mammoth plant, with the number of workers averaging from 150 to 200 men. When completed, the plant will have an overall length of about 1,200 feet.

Lloyd Parson, proprietor of Parson's I.G.A. Market on the west side of the square, purchased the Nicelley Super Market, which was sold at public auction. The purchase price was \$15,000. Mr. Parson plans to move his business to the new site, located at the north edge of town.

This weekend at the Paulding Theatre: "Bengal Brigade" starring Rock Hudson with the suspense thriller "Life in the Balance" with Ricardo Montalban. Starting Sunday: "Love Is a Many Splendored Thing" in Cinemascope and deluxe color starring Jennifer Jones and William Holden, and Paramount News and cartoon.

95 Years Ago

From the Paulding Democrat, April 16, 1931:

Paulding is now located on a new interstate highway, to be known as U.S. 127. Markers were placed along Route 9 last

week, and already travelers are stopping at different places in town and asking what happened to Route 9. The new route will mean a great deal of difference in transient traffic for Paulding during the summer. People around Cincinnati will use the new Route 127 as the shortest and best route to northern Michigan.

From the Paulding County Republican, April 16, 1931:

The work of marking historically interesting points along Revolutionary trails in western Ohio is progressing. Through the efforts of the Ohio Revolutionary Memorial Association, 77 markers will be placed in Van Wert, Paulding, Defiance, Allen, Putnam, Hancock, Hardin and Wyandotte counties. The markers denoting [Gen. Anthony] Wayne's march through Paulding County have been placed from the south side of the county until the route reaches the Auglaize River at or near Fort Brown. From Fort Brown north, the trail follows the river road on the west side of the Auglaize. Markers are placed in the villages of Roselms and Melrose and at other advantageous points. The site of the Charloe Indian village is among numerous other interesting places to be marked.*

The State Highway Department opened bids for constructing 12 miles of U.S. Route 24, in Paulding County. Included in the contract is a bridge over the Zuber Cut-off of three 50-foot spans. The concrete construction costs about \$25,000 less than the macadam type and the state highway department will undoubtedly award the contract for concrete.

135 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Republican, April 16, 1891:

The would-be funny paragraphs about the swamps of Paulding County must be laid away in their little bed. Paulding is coming to the front in great shape. Ten years ago she was considered a sort of annex to Defiance County but now she has the greater population of the two, and only falls a couple of thousand behind Putnam. - Putnam County Vidette

Last Tuesday night the "soiled doves" with which this town and community are cursed, together with their consorts, assembled at Holcombeville and engaged in a dance, during which two sisters got into a scrap. In the melee, Emma stabbed Mary with a knife, once in the head

Scripture of the Week

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

— Romans 5:6-8

EASTER EVERYDAY



"Easter in our hearts every day" is a phrase that resonated in my spirit as I prepared for Holy Week. It is a sentiment that emphasizes the importance of the values and spirit associated with Easter beyond just the holiday itself. Easter, which celebrates resurrection, renewal, and hope, can be a source of inspiration for daily living.

To have "Easter in our hearts" suggests cultivating a mindset of joy, forgiveness, and love in our everyday interactions. It encourages us to embody the essence of rebirth and transformation, not just once a year, but continuously. This mindset can lead to a more positive outlook on life, reminding us to embrace new beginnings and to find hope even in challenging situations.

and once in the shoulder. Mary had Emma arrested on a charge of stabbing with intent to kill. The trial took place in Mayor's Court Tuesday. After hearing the case, Mayor Knapp bound the miscreant over to the Common Pleas Court. She gave a bond of \$200.

Scott was visited with a fire, which might have been worse. John Post's and John McKinney's saloons on the north side of Blaine Street are in ashes. Mr. Post saved a few things but Mr. KcKinney

This may explain why Jesus appeared to Mary and the disciples after His resurrection. To Mary, unwavering in her faith, He urged her to tell Peter and the others that He had risen, making her the first evangelist. When He appeared to Thomas, He stopped his doubt. Showing Himself to Peter and the others, and initially rebuking them, strengthened their belief and faith that Jesus was the Christ, the Risen Savior, and the eternal God.

Additionally, this phrase can imply a commitment to community and kindness, reflecting the way Easter often brings people together. By carrying the spirit of Easter throughout the year, we can promote compassion, understanding, and unity in our relationships with others.

Ultimately, "Easter in our hearts every day" serves as a reminder to live with a sense of gratitude, to acknowledge the beauty of life, and to spread positivity and goodwill in our daily interactions. It invites us to celebrate not just the holiday but the profound lessons it brings into our lives at all times. Every day should be Easter Sunday/ resurrection day.

Scripture references: John 20:19-31, Luke 24:13-35

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

How to Choose the Proper Grass Seed

Now that we have warmer weather, many of you will want to buy grass seed to fill in some bare spots or over seed thin areas of your lawn. Spring is an excellent time for applying grass seed! But what type of grass seed should you get for your lawn? The short answer is high quality seed.

A lawn can never be better than the seed that is sown.

Buying grass seed is like buying a car without seeing it or driving it. There is nothing tangible to compare it to.

Until the seed grows into a lawn, the true quality of what you bought won't be visible for months. The only thing to evaluate is the seed label. Seed labels are written to meet agricultural regulations, and are unfortunately not "consumer friendly." Let us give you four guidelines to break down a seed label's four major requirements: Varieties, Germination, Inert Matter, and Weed Seed.

1. A pound of seed is not the same amount of seeds between varieties. A seed label tells you what varieties are in the package. However, it only tells you in percent by weight of the total package. It does

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WHAT A COINCIDENCE: KENNEDY AND LINCOLN

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

This article was shown to me last week and it was written by Anne Landers years ago. Sent to her by a friend, I was very interested in it and wanted to have you guys read it too.

How much of this is true and how much is coincidence? These comparisons deal with Presidents John Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.

First of all both were concerned with Civil rights

John Kennedy was elected in 1960 and Lincoln was elected in 1860

Both presidents were assassinated on a Friday and in the presence of their wives

Both men were shot from behind and in the head

Both of their successors were named Johnson and both were Southern Democrats in the Senate

Andrew Johnson was born in 1808 and Lyndon Johnson in 1908

John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839 and Lee Harvey Oswald in 1939

Both Presidents' wives lost a child from death while in the White House

Lincoln's secretary whose name was Kennedy advised him not to go to the theater

Kennedy's secretary whose name was Lincoln advised him not to go to Dallas

Booth shot Lincoln in a theater and ran to a warehouse
Lee Harvey Oswald shot Kennedy from a warehouse and ran to a theater

The names Lincoln and Kennedy each contain 7 letters

The names Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson each have 13 letters

The names John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald contain 15 letters



Both of these assassins were killed before trial

Both Johnson's were opposed for reelection by men whose names started with G

I never took time to verify all of these facts but they sure are interesting. I never realized the coincidences of these two presidents, but hats off to those who did. I hope you find this column on these two presidents interesting.

If you find anymore facts about these presidents let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.



The Park in Oakwood struggles to stay above the flood lines during epic storms like the ones of March 31st and April 4th.

(Continued from Page 1)

Defiance County in less than a week. An earlier EF-1 tornado was confirmed near Hicksville on March 31, raising concerns about the frequency and in-

tensity of recent storms in the area.

Residents are encouraged to remain weather-aware as the spring storm season continues and to report any storm damage to local authorities.

(Paulding Veterans... continued from Page 1)

VFW member John Daeger. Early planning included an October 13, 2023 meeting with Tim Copsey to discuss the potential purchase of church property for the site. By February 1, 2024, both the Eagles and the VFW had each contributed \$5,000 to kick-start fundraising efforts.

Momentum continued to build throughout 2024, with a press release issued on April 16 announcing the project, followed by a signed purchase agreement with the Paulding County Land Bank for the property. After approximately 16 months of planning and development, the VFW officially purchased the property on August 6, 2025, and initiated the acquisition of granite monuments the same day.

Those monuments were received on March 23, 2026, marking another key step forward. Just over two weeks later, the community gathered for the groundbreaking ceremony, signaling the transition from planning to construction.

Fundraising efforts have been strong, with \$238,000 raised in cash donations to date. In addition, several in-kind contributions are ex-

pected to cover the cost of concrete work, significantly advancing the project toward completion.

Project organizers took time during the ceremony to recognize the many contributors who have helped bring the memorial to this stage. Special acknowledgment was given to memorial committee members, partner organizations, and donors whose financial and logistical support has been instrumental.

Key partners include Flat Rock Concrete, Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #2405, Homier's Monumental, John Paulding VFW Post #587, Kauser Trucking Services, Inc., the Maumee Valley Planning Organization, the Paulding County Area Foundation, the Paulding County Economic Development Group, and the Paulding County Land Bank.

Organizers also expressed gratitude to families and community members who have supported the effort over the past three years.

With construction now underway, the Paulding Veterans Memorial moves one step closer to becoming a lasting tribute to the men and women who have served, ensuring their sacrifices are remembered for generations to come.

5% inert matter = approx. 10% of the bag's volume).

4. Weed seeds weigh less, so their unwanted plant count can be higher. Weed seeds are also a factor in selection of a grass seed mix. The label says percent by weight of all seeds in the package which were not included in the good pure seed crop. Similar to guideline 1--amount and weight are not equal things--is even truer of weed seeds. One harmless needle grass seed weighs the same as 32 harmful chickweed seeds. But both would be listed as 0.27%. If only 0.10% were chickweed, that would result in 560,000 plants in a 10,000 square foot lawn.

So, now armed with an understanding of grass seed labels, back to the question of what seed to get? Choose a premium seed mixture that guarantees a great lawn. Quality seed mixtures that work well in the Midwest will use a high percentage of bluegrass seed. Bluegrass has very small seeds, so a smaller package of premium seed can cover more area of your lawn. The bonus of bluegrass is its rhizome ability, which

means the plant's roots spread to create new plants.

Bluegrass may be combined with other grasses to derive multiple benefits. Ryegrasses germinate fast to hold the soil. Tall fescues are drought-tolerant, but do not spread. Fine fescues are more shade tolerant. Grasses like Dorado Tall Fescue, Montana Tall Fescue, Frontier Perennial Ryegrass, and Madison Kentucky Bluegrass are better than common-type grasses because they have been bred to improve their natural traits. These varieties create greener and denser lawns. They are also slower growing which means less mowing for you.

Some premium mixes have developed tall fescue seeds to grow roots up to four feet deep. This drastically improves drought tolerance. The enhanced disease resistance in these varieties is due to a waxy coating on the grass--much like the skin of an apple. They are also bred to be naturally dark-green and when mixed with high quality ryegrass and bluegrass, they fill in bare spots quickly and invigorate worn-out lawns.

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holsberry

Andrew A. Traylor was born May 25, 1891, in Antwerp, Ohio, the son of Charles W. Traylor, born in 1856 in Ohio, and Francis America (McNabb) Traylor, born April 29, 1863, in Allen County, Indiana. The couple was married in 1880 and were living in Antwerp, where Charles worked as a laborer.

On March 13, 1882, in Antwerp, they welcomed a son, Harlow M. Traylor, followed by Mary Bell, born March 3, 1883. Andrew was born in 1891. By 1900, the Traylor family was still living in Antwerp. Charles was working as a day laborer, Harlow was employed as a dairyman, and Mary and Andrew were attending school. Andrew left school after the sixth grade.

By 1910, Andrew was working odd jobs while the family lived on Wilhelm Street in Antwerp. On March 9, 1914, Andrew grabbed his haversack, traveled to Paulding, and joined the National Guard. He enlisted with Company B of the 2nd Ohio National Guard as a Private First Class and reported to the State Armory for inspection and the election of officers. He was promoted on January 1, 1917.

Andrew later entered federal service, joining Company K of the 146th Infantry in the National Army on March 6, 1917, as a private. He was promoted to Private First Class on August 1, 1918, and to corpo-

ral on October 13, 1918. He served in France in the Ypres-Lys and Meuse-Argonne defensive sectors.

On December 11, 1918, while Andrew was overseas, his sister Mary Bell passed away after giving birth to a stillborn son. Both were buried in Riverside Cemetery.

Andrew arrived in Brest, France, on March 18, 1919, to begin his journey home. He sailed aboard the ship Maui and arrived in Hoboken, New Jersey, on March 31, 1919. He was honorably discharged on April 13, 1919. His brother, Harlow, also served in France during World War I.

After returning home, Andrew married Rosa E. Hoover on July 24, 1919. Rosa was born in October 1891. The couple moved to Paulding and lived on West Jackson Street with Rosa's parents, Samuel and Nettie Hoover. By 1920, they were still residing with her parents, and their daughter, Mary B., was born February 24, 1920.

The family later moved to Antwerp. Rosa's mother passed away on February 17, 1927. By 1930, Andrew was working as a carpenter. By 1940, Andrew and Rosa were living at 105 West Washington Street in Antwerp, where Andrew continued his carpentry work.

In 1942, Andrew registered for the World War II draft but was not selected for service. By 1950, their daughter Mary had married Max Lichty and remained in Antwerp, living on Stone Street.

In October 1952, Andrew was admitted to the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fort Wayne, suffering from diabetes and heart disease. He passed away at 2:20 p.m. on October 16, 1952. He was buried in Maumee Cemetery in Antwerp. In 1953, his flat military marker was installed at his grave.

Rosa joined him in death on April 9, 1964, and was laid to rest beside him in Maumee Cemetery.

...Until Next Time!

A lawn is as good as the seed you put on it. So choose a premium grass seed mix that will give you the best-looking, strongest, and most worry-free lawn you've ever

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The order form may also be obtained by scanning the QR to the right or by calling John Daeger at 419-989-0548.



CARROLL SHUTS OUT WOODLAN IN NON-CONFERENCE MATCHUP



Was this for real? Woodlan Sophomore Peyton Emenhiser dives to catch the ball from the Carroll opponent hit to right field. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

WOODBURN, IN - The Woodlan Lady Warriors were held scoreless Thursday, April 9, falling 7-0 to the visiting Carroll Lady Chargers in a non-conference softball contest.

Carroll set the tone early and maintained control throughout, plating runs in four different innings while limiting Woodlan to just one hit on the night. The Chargers finished with 12 hits and capitalized on timely at-bats to build their lead.

Leading the way offensively for Carroll was Macey Denison, who went 4-for-4 at the plate with 2 runs scored and 1 RBI. Alexis Pee added a strong performance as well, going 4-for-4 with 1 run and 1 RBI, while Jacie

Heath also contributed with a 4-for-4 effort, scoring once and driving in a run. Taylor Danley added 1 RBI in 3 at-bats, and Izzy Rapson recorded 1 RBI in 2 at-bats. Lily Schultz also drove in a run, finishing 4 at-bats with 1 RBI.

Woodlan struggled to generate offense against the Carroll pitching staff, managing just one hit in the game. V. Crozier accounted for the Warriors' lone hit, going 1-for-3 at the plate.

In the circle, Carroll received a combined shutout performance from Taylor Danley and Macie Lada, who kept the Woodlan lineup off balance throughout the contest. Woodlan's Lucy McHenry took the loss.

EASTSIDE USES FIFTH-INNING SURGE TO DEFEAT WAYNE TRACE 6-4

BUTLER, IN - A tightly contested matchup swung in the middle innings as Eastside used a three-run fifth to pull away from Wayne Trace and secure a 6-4 victory on April 6.

Wayne Trace struck first, plating one run in the opening inning before adding two more in the second and another in the third to take a 4-3 lead. Eastside answered early as well, scoring once in the first and twice in the second to keep pace before both teams went scoreless through the fourth.

The game turned in the bottom of the fifth when Eastside broke through with three runs, capitalizing on timely hitting to take a 6-4 advantage they would not relinquish.

Eastside finished with nine

hits on the night, led by Bo Martin and Wyatt Shull, who each recorded two singles, a run, and an RBI. Cole Omspacher also added a pair of singles and scored a run. Gabe Guerra contributed a key hit with a single driving in two runs, while Bryan Cuenca doubled, scoring once and adding an RBI. Julian Gaff chipped in with a double and a run, and Andrew McClain added an RBI.

On the mound, Garrett Dove started for Eastside, working 2 1/3 innings and allowing four runs, two earned, on two hits while striking out two and walking three. James Muzkya earned the win in relief, tossing three scoreless innings, giving up just two hits while striking out one and walking two. Shull closed the door to earn the save, throwing 1 2/3 hitless innings with two strikeouts.

Wayne Trace was limited

to four hits but made them count early. Carter Clemens led the Raiders with a single, double, and a run scored. Jack Schoenauer and Tanner Laukhuf each drove in a run with singles, while Brody Rosswurm crossed the plate twice and Blake Noggle added a run.

Deklyn Schweinsberg delivered a strong outing in relief for Wayne Trace, striking out nine over four innings while allowing five hits and three runs, two earned. Micah Sinn added a scoreless inning of relief. Laukhuf took the loss after surrendering three runs on four hits in one inning of work.

Despite building an early lead, Wayne Trace was unable to answer Eastside's fifth-inning rally as the Blazers held on for the win.

PAULDING HOLDS OFF HOLGATE BEHIND HUNT'S STRONG PERFORMANCE

PAULDING - A solid outing on the mound from Ridge Hunt and timely hitting helped Paulding secure a 5-3 victory over Holgate on April 7.

Both teams traded runs in the opening inning, but the game remained tight through the middle frames. Paulding broke the tie with a run in the fourth inning, then added two more in the fifth and another in the sixth to create some separation. Holgate mounted a brief rally with two runs in the fifth, but could not close the gap late.

Paulding finished with four hits in the contest, making the most of their opportunities. Colten Hunt led the offense with two singles and a run scored, while Nick Baughman added a single and crossed the plate twice. Grady Barton contributed a single and an RBI, and Zachary Barton also drove in a run. Wes Grindstaff and Grady Arend each added a run scored.

Hunt was dominant on the mound, striking out 10 batters over five innings while allowing just two hits and three earned runs. He also helped his own cause at the plate with three RBIs. Grindstaff came on in relief to earn the save, tossing two hitless innings with two strikeouts and one walk to seal the win.

Holgate managed just two hits but capitalized on a few opportunities to score. Izayah Martinez highlighted the offense with a double and an RBI, while Logan Geahlen added a single. Grady Hoffer, Zack Boecker, and Vincent Peck each scored a run.

Colten Wilhelm took the loss for Holgate, allowing three earned runs over 1 1/3 innings. Evan Crumrine and Geahlen provided solid relief efforts, combining to allow just two runs—both unearned—over the final 4 2/3 innings.

Despite being outthit only slightly, Holgate struggled to generate consistent offense, while Paulding's pitching and timely hitting proved to be the difference in the win.

LADY RAIDERS PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT PANTHERS



Wayne Trace sophomore Avery Noffsinger picks up the ball near the center-field and throws to senior Alicia Bahena who catches the ball at second base but not before Paulding senior Tia Mendez arrives safe, earning her a double! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING - A big sixth inning proved to be the difference as Wayne Trace pulled away for a 9-4 victory over Paulding in softball action on April 9.

The Raiders struck early with a run in the first inning, but Paulding answered to tie the game at 1-1. Wayne Trace regained the lead with a run in the third and held a slim advantage until the Panthers rallied for two runs in the fifth to briefly take control.

Wayne Trace responded in a big way in the sixth inning, erupting for five runs to swing the momentum back in their favor. The Raiders added an insurance run in the seventh to secure the win.

Raegan McGarvey earned the victory in the circle, pitching a complete game. She allowed four hits and four runs, just two earned, while striking out five and walking four.

Offensively, Wayne Trace pounded out 12 hits, led by Avery Noffsinger, who had a standout performance with two singles, a triple, two runs scored, and an RBI. Olivia Zartman added two singles and drove in three runs, while Olivia Tarlton tripled and scored twice.

Elly Rickard provided a key highlight with a home run, scoring twice and driving in a run. Sam Williams contributed a double and two RBIs, Alicia Bahena added

two singles with a run and an RBI, and McGarvey helped her own cause with a single and an RBI. Addyson LaBounty chipped in with a single and a run, while Caitlyn Mead also crossed the plate.

Paulding was limited to four hits but made them count at times. Tia Mendez and Mariah Klopfenstein each had doubles, with Klopfenstein and Luci Martinez driving in runs. Gracie Leal added a single and a run, while Madison Clark and Civil Pumphrey each scored.

Mendez took the loss for Paulding despite striking out nine, allowing nine runs on 12 hits over seven innings.

Wayne Trace finished with three errors in the field compared to one by Paulding, but the Raiders' offensive surge in

the later innings proved too much to overcome.



More pictures at engagingexposures.com

RAIDERS SHUT OUT PANTHERS BEHIND ROSSWURM'S DOMINANT ARM

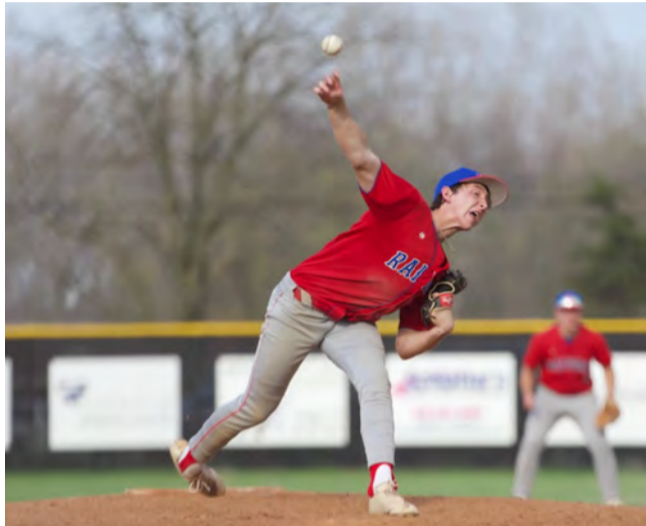


Photo by Harlee Moore.

PAULDING - A strong pitching performance and timely hitting lifted Wayne Trace to a 4-0 shutout victory over Paulding on April 9.

After two scoreless innings to open the game, Wayne Trace broke through in the top of the third inning with three runs, setting the tone for the rest of the contest. The Raiders added an insurance run in the fourth inning to secure the win.

Brody Rosswurm led the way on the mound, earning the win with an impressive outing. He pitched six innings, allowing five hits while striking out 10 batters and walking two, keeping Paulding off the scoreboard throughout his time on the hill. Caden Sinn came on in relief to finish the game.

At the plate, Wayne Trace collected six hits, with Tanner Laukhuf pacing the offense with two singles and a run scored. Rosswurm helped his

own cause with a single and a run, while Carter Clemens added a single and an RBI. Sinn contributed a single, a run, and an RBI, and Jonathan Sterrett chipped in with a single and a run.

Paulding also tallied six hits in the game but was unable to capitalize on scoring opportunities. Grady Arend led the Panthers with a double, while Ridge Hunt, Zachary Barton, Stroker Etter, Grady Barton, and Easton Lehman each added a single.

Colten Hunt took the loss for Paulding, pitching four innings and allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits while striking out six and walking two. Easton Lehman provided relief on the mound.

Despite matching Wayne Trace in hits, Paulding committed two errors compared to one by the Raiders, which proved costly in the shutout loss.

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

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Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of speech. Nevertheless, we do not necessarily concur with the content that has been printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address. You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.

Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publication. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I Don't Have It So Bad

I went uptown to run some errands and get some gas. It was 20 degrees, a little windy and we had some snow over night. As I was coming out of the gas station store to pump my gas, I wondered when spring was coming, when will it warm up, when will we have the last snow this spring and will the wind ever get back to normal? I put my

winter hat on and my gloves and set the pump to put gas in my vehicle.

Then it hit me, what was Jesus thinking? Hey Dave, you think you got it bad, try being betrayed by a friend, try being beaten and accused of a crime you were innocent of, try spending all night being taken from one court to another. Then how about your own people sentencing you to die on a cross?

Hey Dave, have you ever had a spike driven into both of your wrists. How about your mother and your other friends not being around. But most of all, you will never have your "Heavenly Father" cause the earth to go dark for three hours because you are so hideous to look at because you will never have all of men's sins, past, present and future dumped on you while you were hanging on that cross. Your God will never forsake or abandon you. Then I remembered Jesus' words "Father forgive them for they know not what they do."

Just then my \$20 of gas was pumped, I hung up the nozzle, replaced the gas cap, took off my hat and gloves and got in my still warm vehicle and drove thanking Jesus for getting my attention, and thanked him for doing what he did that good Friday so long ago. Because he paid my fine for my sins, someday I will be able to touch his wounded hand and his wounded feet and his wounded side. This is a day the Lord has made, let's rejoice and be glad in it.
Thank you Jesus!
—Dave Laukhuf,
Paulding, OH

(Continued from Page 1)

nars in April that highlight various statewide and localized programs and initiatives throughout Ohio. These webinars are free and will be held via zoom at 11am EST on the dates listed below. Please note, if you are interested in attending, you will need to register separately for each webinar.

You can also find out more information about each webinar and register here: April National Child Abuse Prevention Month Events | Ohio Children's Trust Fund.

These webinars are free and open to all Ohio parents and professionals.

- Wednesday, April 1st at 11am - Department of Children and Youth (DCY) Family and Customer Support Center, learn how DCY's Family Support Call Center, helps families across the state access the resources and supports in their local communities.

- Wednesday, April 8th at 11am - Better Together - Community Driven Prevention, hear about the impactful work of School Outreach Caseworkers that serve as a liaison between the school, community, and Children Services. School outreach provides voluntary services to everyone within the school served.

- Wednesday, April 15th at 11am - Family Connects Ohio: Trusted Care for Every Family, participants will get an overview of Family Connects Ohio (FCO), an evidence-based nurse home visiting model that provides support and resources for families and newborns.

- Thursday, April 23rd at 11am - Parent Advocacy and Leadership, learn about the parent advocacy and leadership training and the impact of parent voice.

- Wednesday, April 29th at 11am - Family Support Through Primary Prevention (FSPP): Washington County, hear how this program is helping support families in Washington County meet their basic needs and advocate for their family.

Every year nearly 6 million children in the U.S. experience child abuse, and children under age four die each day due to abuse, according to childhelp.org. As a community of people who work with kids and strive to show them love, this is a sad and shocking statistic. We must all make an effort to help put a stop to this terrible trend.

Abused Child:

Definition: According to Ohio Revised Code Section

2151.031, an "abused child" is defined as a child who exhibits evidence of physical or mental injury or death, or suffers physical or mental injury because of the acts of their parents, guardian, custodian, or caretaker.

Examples:

- Physical injuries like bruises, broken bones, burns, or bites.
- Mental injuries resulting from emotional abuse or neglect.

- Sexual abuse.

- Acts that constitutes a serious risk to a child's physical health and safety, even if no harm results (e.g. domestic violence in the child's presence).

Neglected Child:

Definition: Ohio Revised Code Section 2151.03(A) defines a "neglected child" as one who lacks proper parental care due to the faults or habits of their parents, guardian, or custodian, or who suffers physical or mental injury because of their parents', guardian's, or custodian's omissions.

Examples:

- Physical Neglect: Failure to provide adequate food, clothing shelter, supervision, or medical care.

- Emotion Neglect: Failure to provide emotional support and affection necessary for a child's psychological and social development.

- Education Neglect: Failure to educate a child or attend to special education needs.

- Lack of safe, sanitary, warm shelter.

- Lack of adequate nutrition.

- Lack of necessary psychiatric care.

- Lack of care for special needs.

- Lack of necessary medical/dental care.

- Lack of adequate clothing.

Abandonment: It's also considered neglect in many states to abandon a child. Abandonment is often defined as happening when the parent's identity or location is unknown, or the parent has left the child in a situation that exposes the child to harm, or has left the child with no contact and no support. Abandonment is also legally defined as a form of neglect in Ohio.

Children depend on the
(Continued on Page 10)

RISKS THREATENING GEN Z'S RETIREMENT — AND HOW TO TACKLE THEM

While older generations worry about having enough money for retirement, many Gen Z workers aren't even starting to save. Research in 2025 by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that nearly half haven't begun setting money aside for their golden years, and only 22% are contributing to a workplace retirement plan.

The culprit is a perfect storm of financial pressures that can make saving for the future feel impossible.

One of the biggest challenges this generation faces is debt. High-interest credit card balances and persistent student loan payments leave many feeling they're just trying to stay afloat, rather than planning decades ahead.

The cost of living doesn't help either. Nearly 60% of Gen Z renters are considered "rent-burdened," spending more than 30% of their pre-tax income on rent, according to a StreetEasy analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Rising prices driven by inflation and tariffs squeeze budgets further, moving retirement savings down the priority list.

The nature of work has also changed. Gen Z is more likely than previous generations to hold gig jobs, contract positions or other flexible work arrangements that often don't include employer retirement plans, according to Pew Research. Even when plans are available, only 22% participate. Feeling overwhelmed by jargon, confused by investment choices or focusing only on today's experiences and technology can all delay participation. These early gaps may lead to catch-up needs later in life.

Unfortunately, Gen Z has little faith in the retirement safety net. Only about a third of Gen Z-ers say they believe Social Security will still exist when they retire, according to the latest information from the CATO Institute.

Fortunately, there are steps Gen Z can take now to get their retirement savings off to a good start:

- Start small: Even a few dollars per paycheck builds a savings habit and gets compounding interest working in their favor. Early momentum

matters more than starting big.

- Let compounding do its work: Small, consistent contributions can grow dramatically over time, especially when they have decades to accumulate.

- Use a workplace retirement account: For anyone with access to a plan, enroll and contribute at least enough to receive any employer match. It's one of the few forms of "free money" available.

- Open an IRA: If no plan is available through work, take charge by opening an individual retirement account (IRA).

- Simplify investing: If the choices feel confusing, consider options such as a target date fund, which reduces complexity and helps keep you properly invested without needing expert advice.

- Use found money: Direct tax refunds, bonuses or gig income into retirement savings to boost progress without straining the monthly budget.

- Automate contributions: Automatic transfers make saving effortless. Review this annually and increase contributions as income grows.

- Build confidence: If investing feels overwhelming, look for quick financial education resources from an employer, plan provider or reputable nonprofit organization. Even a little knowledge can make decisions easier.

The path to retirement doesn't require perfection — just progress. Building consistency early helps create choices, security and financial breathing room later in life.

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



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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,

Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

Ney: Marathon

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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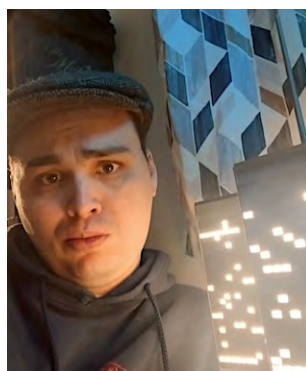


HICKSVILLE — A powerful tribute to the World Trade Center and the events of September 11, 2001, is taking shape locally through

the work of Paulding resident Evan Huebner, whose detailed scale model project blends history, craftsmanship, and remembrance.

Huebner, a 2013 graduate of Paulding High School and a current security officer, spent the entire winter constructing the models as part of a USA 250th tribute. His goal, he said, is simple but meaningful: to preserve modern history for future generations.

The World Trade Center, originally designed by architect Minoru Yamasaki, once stood as the largest office complex in the world. The seven-building complex featured the iconic Twin Towers—1 World Trade Center, completed in 1970, and 2 World Trade Center, completed in 1972—each rising 110 stories into the New York skyline. A third major



Evan Huebner with his 9/11 models

building, 4 World Trade Center, was finished in 1977. The construction of the complex required more than 200,000 tons of steel, along with enough concrete to create a five-foot-wide sidewalk stretching from New York to Washington, D.C. The site also housed the world's largest refrigeration plant, and the North Tower featured the well-known Windows on the World restaurant. At its peak, the complex welcomed approximately 50,000 workers and visitors daily.

Huebner's model faithfully reflects the original towers, including their aluminum exterior and narrow vertical window design. The North Tower is represented at a height of 1,368 feet and the South Tower at 1,362 feet, scaled down to a model standing approximately two feet tall at roughly a 1:680 ratio, with a base measuring about 16 by 16 inches. Each of the towers' 110 floors is carefully represented, capturing both the scale and presence of the originals.

Adding a deeply meaningful element to the project, the base of the model incorporates pieces of original steel recovered from the World Trade Center itself. Huebner designed and 3D-printed a custom cover for the base, shaping it to resemble the original towers while preserving the historical material within. He also installed interior lighting that illuminates the model at regular intervals, further bringing the tribute to life.

The model also serves as a reminder of the immense loss suffered on September 11, 2001, when 2,977 people were killed in the terrorist attacks, including 23 New York Police Department officers, 37 Port Authority officers, and 8 emergency medical service personnel. Today, the footprints of the original towers remain as part of the National September 11 Memorial, honoring those who lost their lives and the courage displayed in the face of tragedy.

Huebner said the project reflects not only the physical structure of the towers but also the ideals they represented. Yamasaki once described the World Trade Center as a symbol of world peace and cooperation, embodying humanity's belief in dignity and unity—values Huebner hopes to carry forward through his work.

Looking ahead, Huebner is already considering his next historical project: a model of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, another site of national tragedy.

Community members will have the opportunity to view the World Trade Center model in person, with upcoming displays planned at the Paulding County

Carnegie Library and Guilford Realty in Hicksville during Heritage Days, with additional locations possibly to be announced.

Through careful attention to detail and a commitment to preserving history, Huebner's work offers a meaningful local connection to one of the most significant events in modern American history.

LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Mowing

The grass is (or will be) growing shortly and we'd like to share with you a few guidelines on mowing. Many homeowners take mowing for granted not realizing how much impact it has on the health and appearance of the lawn. Each of the following tips plays an important part in your lawn's health and appearance.

1. Sharpen your mower blades. Do this at least once a year or as frequently as needed to keep them sharp for the best cut. Sharp mower blades give a clean even cut to your lawn. Additionally they help prevent tearing and shredding the grass blades, which can give your grass an off-color appearance.

2. Adjust the cutting height of the mower throughout the season. For spring and fall, mower settings should be at medium-height. By doing this in early spring, mowing at a medium-height, this will remove the top brown-part of the blades and let more sunlight reach the grass plants to encourage early green-up. Avoid mowing too low which causes stress to the lawn. Mowing too low eliminates the leaf surface. Loosing leaf surface reduces the plants ability to perform

photosynthesis. During summer or drought, higher adjustment settings should be used during the hotter months when the grass growth is slower. This also helps your lawn maintain better drought tolerance with hotter temperatures and less rain. Remember, the hotter and drier, the higher you should set your mower.

3. Never cut off more than one-third of the grass height. Cutting off more than a third creates a physiological shock that can make it more susceptible to disease. Frequent mowing with a regular mower or using a mulching mower will avoid the necessity of bagging your lawn clippings; however, you may catch the clippings if you prefer. The important thing is not to let the grass get so high that mowing removes more than one-third of the grass blade. For best results, mow your lawn approximately every five days.

4. Mow when your lawn is dry to avoid clogging your mower. Wet grasses stick to your mower and clogs can cause problems. However, if you absolutely have to mow when it is wet, make sure to wash out the cutting area of the mower immediately when you are finished. This makes it much easier to keep the mower clean and problem free.

5. Alternate mowing direction. This aids in achieving a quality appearance. For instance, if you mowed east and west last time, mow diagonally next time. Cutting in different directions tends to keep the grass blades more erect and ensures a more even cut.

—Jim Gerig
Jonathan Green Lawn Care Consultant; Grabill & Woodburn Hardware; Do It Best



FOUR DAYS. ONE CONVENIENT LOCATION.

DATES & HOURS

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

LOCATION

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**WOODBURN LIONS CLUB
2026 DONUT SCHEDULE**

- APRIL 25 – HARLAN ATHLETIC ASSOC. OPENING DAY**
Harlan Park Shelter House 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - MAY 2 – WOODBURN YOUTH LEAGUE OPENING DAY**
Woodburn Park – 7:00 a/.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - MAY 16 - WOODLAN SCHOLARSHIP**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - JUNE 13 – FATHER’S DAY**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - JULY 11- WOODBURN MAIN STREET**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 P.M.
 - JULY 30, 31, AUGUST 1 HARLAN DAYS**
Harlan Park – Thursday & Friday 5 p.m. – 10 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. – Closing
 - AUGUST 22 – BFG CAR SHOW**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 - SEPTEMBER 12 - GARAGE SALE**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - SEPTEMBER 12 - PAYNE FALL FEST**
Main St. Payne – 8:00 – Noon
 - SEPTEMBER 18 –HOMECOMING PARADE**
Woodburn Clock Tower - 4:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
 - SEPTEMBER 22 – HARLAN FARMERS MARKET**
Harlan Park – 5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
 - OCTOBER 10 – WOODLAN SCHOLARSHIP**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m.
 - OCTOBER 31 – BUSINESS APPRECIATION DAY**
Woodburn Clock Tower – 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
 - WOODBURN HALLOWEEN PARTY 7:30 p.m.**
Free Donuts & Cider – Costume Contest
- *NOTE – Available @ All Woodlan Varsity FB games
- Dates & Times are Subject to Change**

- | | |
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THE LEFT TURN



Oakshade Raceway Sportsman Class will have a series with the UMP Modifieds. *Charlie Orns Photo.*

By: Ron Burt

Ohio racetracks are laying out to groundwork to protect themselves as more people are leaving metropolitan hubs to relocate in the country. Speedways that have been in business over 50 years could lose out to new homeowners because of the noise from weekly events. It doesn't seem fair for an established business to close because of a handful of new neighbors, but it's been going on around the country. Ohio racetracks want protection. It's seeming simple, the speedway was there first. Most of these tracks are family owned and started on their farmland. In the beginning of most, no houses could be seen in any direction. Real estate companies come along and buy up the land around the tracks and develop it and sell the lots for homes. Homeowners don't think about the race-track next door until they have a cookout on a Saturday night and hear 3-4 hours of roaring engines. They complain to the real-estate company who have more money and better attorneys most of the time and the tracks are forced to close because of a handful of new homeowners from outside the local community.

In 2025 the state of Iowa passed a new Bill 645, and it specifically protects motorsports venues from legal action from angry neighbors, assuming the track was there first. Any racetrack must comply with existing rules about allowable noise and light pollution, but as long as a track is following those rules, new complaints can't be brought by nearby homeowners. With housing developments popping up everywhere, Bill 645 prevents some unscrupulous developers from forcing out motorsports. This protection is especially important for grassroots racetracks, that are a big part of Midwestern rac-

ing heritage.

Tracks and fans in other states have reached out to their own State Legislatures including, Ohio, Michigan and Indiana to start their own groundwork and set protection laws in place.

Recently Representative Kellie Deeter (R-Norwalk) introduced legislation to create a clear legal framework for nuisance claims involving racing facilities and racetracks across Ohio. The bill would establish a complete legal defense for racing facilities against certain nuisance claims regarding activities such as noise, traffic, dust, or lighting. This would apply to a property owner who acquired or developed property after the racing facility was constructed. The legislation is intended to provide certainty and stability for existing racing facilities while preserving compliance with all state and federal environmental, health, and safety laws. If enacted, this would also prohibit counties or townships from adopting regulations that conflict with the provisions of the bill. The bill now awaits a number and committee assignment.

Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon has released the 2026 schedule with a big surprise. The Modifieds are coming! During the season the UMP Modifieds and Late Model Sportsmen cars will have a race series together. The speedway has run a few of these challenge races in the past and the fans and drivers enjoyed the two classes going head-to-head. The races will pay \$1,200.00 to win. The first series race will be opening night May 2nd, with 7 more during the summer. Maybe if enough drivers build modifieds, in a year or two Oakshade might have a class for them. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! (www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

WAYNE TRACE DEBUTS FIRST-EVER CLAY TARGET SHOOTING TEAM



Wayne Trace High School has added a new sport to its extracurricular lineup with the introduction of its inaugural clay target shooting team. Fourteen students make up the first roster, making a significant milestone for the school as interest in youth shooting sports continues to grow statewide.

The team began practices on March 31, 2026 at the Paulding Co. Fish and Game Club, where students train in marksmanship, fundamentals, consistency, and safe firearm handling. Before participating in live-fire sessions,

all members completed a detailed hunter's safety program covering equipment use, range procedures, and responsible conduct. Coaches emphasize that safety remains the central focus of every practice and competition. Coach Mike Schnipke said the team is approaching its first season with a clear mindset, noting "Proverbs 4:25 says Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. For the team, this means stay focused, be safe, have fun, and let go busting some pottery."

Clay target shooting offers

students a unique athletic experience, blending precision, concentration, and mental discipline. The sport welcomes participants with varying levels of experience and Wayne Trace's first group reflects that diversity. The team includes seasoned recreational shooters to students trying the activity for the first time. Making up the team is one senior, five juniors, five sophomores, and three freshmen.

Throughout the season, Wayne Trace will compete in the Ohio High School Clay Target League. Teams across

the state participate in weekly virtual competitions, submitting scores electronically before having an opportunity to advance to a state tournament in June.

The community views the new program as an important addition to the school's offerings, providing students with another meaningful way to engage in athletics and represent their community. With 14 members setting the foundation, Wayne Trace's clay target shooting team begins its debut season with momentum and the potential to build a lasting tradition.

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER STUDENTS EXCEL IN MASONRY THROUGH CARPENTRY PROGRAM



Pictured from left to right: Kaden Gause and Cole Miller from Crestview showcasing their masonry project.

Students in the Carpentry program at Vantage Career Center are gaining real-world skills and standing out in masonry, showcasing impressive craftsmanship and attention to detail.

According to Carpentry Student, Delana Noggle, the program builds a strong foundation during the junior year, where students develop essential skills in safely using hand and power tools, reading blueprints, and working with industry technology. Along the way, students earn valuable certifications, including OSHA 10-Hour, ICRA, and multiple equipment operation credentials. These skills are applied through hands-on projects such as birdhouses, totes, and CNC-designed stepstools.

Noggle added that this year's masonry training took those skills even further. With guidance from guest instructor Gary Hunter of Weigand Construction, students focused on mastering precision and ensuring their work was level, flush, and plumb. Through graded masonry

projects, students demonstrated not only their technical abilities, but also a high level of craftsmanship that reflects real-world industry standards.

Five students advanced to an in-class masonry competition on February 27, 2026: Colton Kimmel, Cole Miller, Kaden Gause, Zander Coil, and Townsend Wilkinson. Competitors were challenged to recreate a past SkillsUSA design within three hours, demonstrating high-level skill and accuracy. Cole Miller of Crestview Local Schools earned the top score and will advance to the Skills USA Masonry Competition in Columbus on May 5, 2026.

In their senior year, students continue building their skills through a real home construction project in Latty, Ohio, gaining daily job site experience. For more than 20 years, Carpentry Instructor Jerry Robinson has led the program at Vantage Career Center, bringing real-world experience in home construction and a strong emphasis on life skills that prepare students

for the workforce. Students interested in the program are encouraged to attend events such as 8th grade tours, sophomore visit days, Build Your Future, and Taste of Vantage, and to apply early following their sophomore tour, as space is limited. Students enrolled at Vantage also remain connected to their home schools, with the ability to participate in extracurricular activities, pep rallies, and other events, making it a well-rounded opportunity for those looking to build both skills and a future in the trades.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Brandon J. Fahling of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 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.

Dominique N. Wilson of Detroit, Michigan, had a charge of driving under suspension dismissed. In a related case, Wilson entered a

no contest plea and was convicted of a child restraint violation. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include the recall of a warrant and warrant block

Ian M. Gresley of Monroeville, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30. The case was waived by the defendant.

Jarron L. Coleman II of Indianapolis, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30. The case was waived by the defendant.

Andrew J. Kahn of Fort Wayne, Indiana, 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.

Preston M. Garvin of Avon, Indiana, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Merinda Branham of Glandorf, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle

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WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



WT Grover Hill March Students of the Month are (front row, l-r): Lydia Reichert, Addelyn Okang, Kain Evans, Annabelle Saylor. Middle row, left to right: Miley Zilenski, Chase Keeran, Shaelyn Plummer, and Iris Linton; (back row, l-r) Tyler Akom, Jude Miller, Landyn Miller, Gabe Spangler, Weslen Tucker, Tyler Baksa, and Cyntia Pineda. Not Pictured: Harlyn Greetar and Taryn Stoller.

NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CELEBRATES COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH IN OHIO

Archbold, Ohio – Northwest State Community College is joining community colleges across the state this month to highlight the essential role that two-year colleges play in preparing Ohioans for in-demand careers and providing an affordable pathway to higher education.

Community College Month, celebrated in April by proclamation of Gov. Mike DeWine, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the economic, academic, and workforce impact of community colleges.

Now more than ever, Ohio's community colleges are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of both students and employers, said NSCC President Dr. Todd Hernandez. "We provide affordable, flexible, and career-focused education that helps students gain skills quickly and gives employers the talent they need to grow in the ever-expanding high-tech economy of the 21st century," Dr. Hernandez said.

Each year, Ohio's 22 community colleges serve approximately 250,000 students. This includes high school students earning college credit through Ohio's College Credit Plus program, recent high school graduates, working adults, veterans, career changers, and adults seeking short-term training to quickly gain new skills or advance in their careers. Students can earn industry-recognized certificates, associate degrees, or begin a bachelor's degree before transferring to a four-year university.

The combination of affordability and workforce alignment sets Ohio's community colleges apart, said Avi Zaffini, president and CEO of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges. "Our colleges serve as Ohio's top workforce partner and deliver the best value in higher education," Zaffini said. "They respond quickly to employer needs, offer education close to home, and create clear pathways into good-paying jobs or on to a four-year degree."

Ohio's community colleges are widely recognized as the state's top workforce partner and the best value in higher education, Zaffini added. Through close collaboration with more than 1,000 employers statewide, community colleges align education and training with real-world job needs across healthcare, advanced manufacturing, information technology, logistics, and the skilled trades.

During April's Community College Month celebration, Northwest State is also celebrating student excellence. Northwest State is proud to announce that Brady Clark and Seth Hathaway have been named to the 2026 All-Ohio Academic Team (Third team), a statewide honor recognizing outstanding achievement in academics, leadership, and community service.

The All-Ohio Academic Team includes high-performing students who are planning to transfer to four-year institutions as well as those who intend to move directly into the workforce. Honorees are nominated by their colleges and recognized along-

2026, through May 6, 2026. Special conditions include serving 21 days on electronic monitoring house arrest with work release from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and repayment of EMHA costs. Related charges of a seat belt violation, improper display of plates, and no tail lights were dismissed.

Jhair Ubaldo Santiz Hernandez of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Santiz Hernandez was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from February 3, 2026, through February 3, 2027. Special conditions include the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail. He had charges of no operator license and failure to control dismissed.

Emmanuel B. Dilver of Sedalia, Missouri, was convicted of operating a commercial motor vehicle without possessing a CDL. He was fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Dilver was sentenced to 10 days in jail, all of which were suspended.

Coty L. Moore of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Kevin L. Clay of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Devoreaux D. Harris of Warren, Michigan, 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.

Nolan A. Grote of Cloverdale, 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.

Xander E. Martz of Oakwood, 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.

Brendan J. Saylor of Sherwood, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$245. The case was waived by the defendant.

SANDY CAY INC. RECEIVES \$2,000 GRANT TO SUPPORT VOLLEY 4 AUTISM COMPETITION



Pictured is Kathleen Ewonus - Executive Director of Sandy Cay and Tyler Adkins - Defiance Moose Lodge Member.

Congratulations to Sandy Cay Inc. for receiving a \$2,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094, who holds a donor advised fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella. This grant is for their Volley 4 Autism Competition.

The Bryan Center - Sandy Cay Inc is an educational cen-

ter for students age 3-22 who are on the autism spectrum. Since their start in 2001, Sandy Cay has helped over 260 families in NW Ohio. Using effective intervention and low student / teacher ratios, the staff is able to better help students with their own individual challenges and strengths.

under the influence. She was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Branham was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from October 20, 2025, through October 20, 2026. Special conditions include the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail, and the administrative license suspension was vacated. Related charges of driving while texting, left of center, and a seat belt violation were dismissed.

David A. Keller of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Jonna M. Gideon-Lemieux of Convoy, Ohio, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

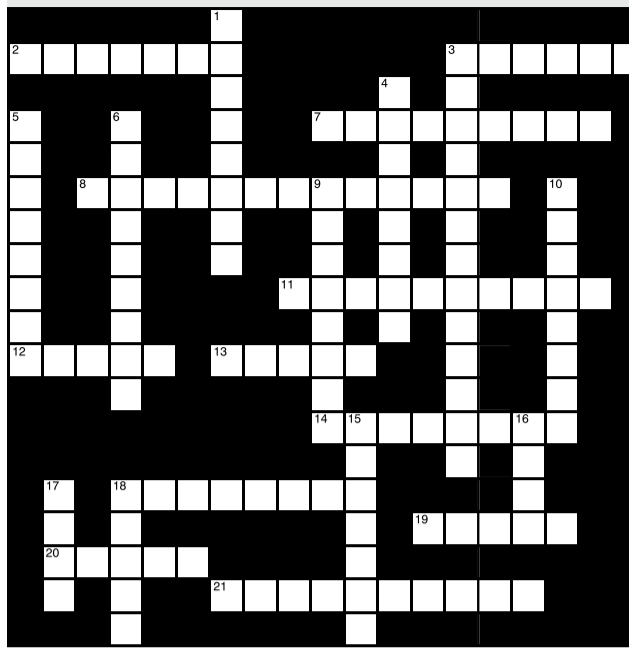
Izaya J. Dunno of Warren, Indiana, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Katelynn M. Coyne of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of disorderly conduct. She was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Coyne was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, and having no unlawful contact with the victim.

Moises Favela Betancourt of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of driving under suspension related to an OVI. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Favela Betancourt was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 27 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from April 6,

WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle

FLOWERS TO LOOK FOR IN MAY



Across

2. Sweetly scented flower with trumpet-shaped blooms.
3. One of the earliest spring bloomers, often appearing through snow.
7. Also called Lenten rose, blooming in early spring.
8. Heart-shaped pink flowers hanging from arching stems.
11. Spring-blooming plant known for its warm-toned colors.
12. Large, lush bloom that appears in late spring.
13. Bright, cup-shaped flower often associated with spring festivals.
14. Tree known for its large, waxy blossoms.
18. Low-growing flower often found in pastel colors.
19. Small flower with a face-like pattern on its petals.
20. Bush with sweet-smelling purple or white flower clusters.

Down

1. Yellow trumpet-shaped bloom symbolizing renewal.
3. Pale pink flowers blooming on trees in early spring.
4. Bell-shaped blue flowers that grow in woodland areas.
5. White, drooping flower that blooms at winter's end.
6. Unique flower with spurred petals attracting pollinators.
9. Hardy flowering plant often used in gardens and containers.
10. Climbing plant with delicate, fragrant blossoms.
15. Windflower known for its delicate, colorful blooms.
16. Flower with distinctive petals resembling a fan or sword.
17. Elegant flower often associated with Easter celebrations.
18. Dense clusters of small, colorful flowers.

solution on page 11

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side peers from community colleges across Ohio during Community College Month.

Throughout April, Northwest State will also host Community College Month activities, including a Job & Career Fair, Scholarship Awards Reception, TRIO Annual Awards event, as well as campus tours, advising sessions and much more for the current summer and fall registra-

tion period. Community members are encouraged to participate and share their stories highlighting the impact of community colleges.

To learn more about programs at Northwest State Community College, visit NorthwestState.edu or call 419-267-1320 today.

LEGAL NOTICE FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

MIDFIRST BANK, Plaintiff,

vs.

UNKNOWN ADMINISTRATOR, EXECUTOR OR FIDUCIARY, UNKNOWN HEIRS, NEXT OF KIN, UNKNOWN SPOUSES, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, CREDITORS AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE ESTATE OF CARL E. NULL, ET. AL., DEFENDANTS,

Case No. CI-26-053

TO: the Unknown Administrator, Executor or Fiduciary, Unknown Heirs, Next of Kin, Unknown Spouses, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors and Beneficiaries of The Estate of Carl E. Null, you will take notice that on March 5, 2026, Plaintiff, filed a Complaint for foreclosure in the Paulding County Court of Common Pleas, being Case No. CI 26 053, alleging that there is due to the Plaintiff the sum of \$75,622.67, plus interest at 4.75% per annum from June 01, 2025, plus late charges and fees applicable to the terms of a

FILED PAULDING COUNTY SARAH JO HARPEL CLERK OF COURTS

2026 APR -6 PM 3:01

Promissory Note secured by a Mortgage on the real property, which has a street address of 12705 Road 12, Scott, OH 45886, being permanent Parcel Number: 05-36S-007-02.

Plaintiff further alleges that by reason of a default in payment of said Promissory Note, the conditions of said Mortgage have been broken and the same has become absolute.

Plaintiff prays that the Defendant named above be required to answer and assert any interest in said real property or be forever barred from asserting any interest therein, for foreclosure of said mortgage, marshalling of liens, and the sale of said real property, and that the proceeds of said sale be applied according to law.

Said Defendant is required to file an Answer on or before the twenty-eighth day following the last date of Publication.

Brian S. Jackson, 0088316
Crystal L. Saesky, 0091328
Brandon W. Ellis, 0090777
Austin R. Decker, 0100918
Christina R. Griffith, 0102095
Alexander D. Weisser, 0103287
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
2400 Chamber Center Dr. Suite 220
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017
Telephone: 502-321-7112 / Facsimile: 833-310-1332
Email: kyohfilings@rasjg.com

ANDRES O'NEIL & LOWE INSURANCE COMMITS \$2,000 SPONSORSHIP FOR DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION 2026 GALA



Pictured (l-r) are Mandi Starnier, DAF Gala Committee Member and Kate Cooper, AOL Personal Lines Manager.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to announce that Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency (AOL) has committed a \$2,000 sponsorship as a Bronze Sponsor for the Foundation's 2026 Gala, scheduled for October 3.

Support from sponsors helps grow the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) Community Fund, which provides grants to nonprofit organizations serving Defiance County and addresses emerging community needs.

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful for Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency's support and commitment to strengthening the community through philanthropy.

KIWANIS CLUB HOSTS FINANCIAL PARTNERS CEO FOR CHAMBER SPOTLIGHT ON FINANCIAL EDUCATION



Pictured: Dave Shuey and Jill Strahley, Chamber Director

The Kiwanis Club welcomed Dave Shuey, CEO of Financial Partners Federal Credit Union, as part of the Chamber Spotlight series coordinated by the Paulding Chamber of Commerce.

During his presentation, Shuey provided an overview of the credit union's history and mission, and highlighted its educational initiatives aimed at teaching students essential financial skills, including budgeting, credit management, and financial responsibility through real-world applications.

(Continued from Page 5)

adults around them to keep them safe and to help them when they are hurt. ALL of our children need an opportunity to reach their full potential as adults by having a safe and nurturing environment with caregivers they can depend on for love, guidance and respect.

Signs that you are experiencing parenting stress:

Are you maxed out as a parent? Are you having trouble falling asleep or staying asleep because you are worried about your kids? Is your fuse much shorter with your children than it usually is? Do you long for adult company? Are you drinking more alcohol to cope with your child's behaviors? Do you find yourself worrying that you aren't available enough to your children, or that you aren't making them happy?

Stress does not make you a bad parent! It makes you a parent who is doing your best to provide a safe environment for your kids. The following are some ways to manage your stress:

Don't ignore your stress. It's important to learn to control your stress, rather than letting it control you.

Have a plan for stress. Once you've named your stress and acknowledged how you are feeling, put your parenting stress plan into action. No matter what it involves, stick to it.

Try to maintain a sense of humor. A sense of humor is critical in helping people han-

dle stress. Identify your strengths. Focus on what you are doing "right" as a parent is much more effective than focusing on the negative.

Take care of yourself. It doesn't have to be a long amount of time, but it's important to take time where you are the priority.

Seek help when you need it. If you are feeling overwhelmed and stretched thin as a parent, there is no shame or stigma in reaching out for help from friends and family, or reaching out for professional help. A therapist can help you work through your stressors and provide clinical, evidence-based methods for reducing your stress and helping you become the parent you want to be.

Are you or someone you love struggling with mental health or substance abuse:

"LocalHelpNow" app can provide the help you need - go to: tricountyadamhs board.org

If you are experiencing mental health or addiction crisis and need immediate assistance:

Call: 800-567-4673 Hotline 24 hours a day ... Crisis Text Line: "4hope to 741741" ... Call, Chat or Text the number 988

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Call: 800-950-6264 or go to nami.org

Submitted by: Cathy Ruiz, Administrator/Service Coordinator, Paulding County Family & Children First Council, and Parent Mentor with Western Buckeye, ESC.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH TO HOST SPRING LUNCH IN PAULDING

The First Christian Church in Paulding will host a Spring Lunch on Wednesday, April 22, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church, located at 1233 Emerald Road.

The community is invited to enjoy a variety of homemade soups, fresh salads, and hearty sandwiches, along with a selection of desserts. The event is open to the public and offers a welcoming opportunity for fellowship and a delicious midday meal.

A free will donation will be accepted.

PAULDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THIRD NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

*Denotes all "As" **THIRD GRADE:**

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Mrs. Agler - *Essie Deel, *Declan Pittman, *Ilah Zimmerman, Hendrix Carlisle, Bayne Dasher, Ayra Dunakin, Tony Kleman, Kenley Miller, Harper Snyder, Emberly VanVlerah

Mrs. Rohlf - *Alitza Delgado Torres, William Arend, Mason Eddy, Vincent Grinnell, Kyra Mead, Maddock Wolfe

FOURTH GRADE:

Mrs. Miles - *Quynn Arend, *Brooklyn Boecker, *Gwendalyn LaBoe, *Aubrey Manz, *Kaylee Powell, Dilan Calixto-Gutierrez, Rayna Carpenter, Lute Gross, Meela Jones, Cole Mangette, Edison Manz, William Ramon, Adriana Smith, Wyatt Wilhelm

Miss Jimenez - *Marshall Wilhelm, Gabriella Andrews, Molly Eckhart, Dean Font, Sebastian Houck, Carl Kosch,

Nora Rosalez, Nolan Schlueter, Sophia Spangler, Hudson Stork, Rowan Witkowski

Mr. Harder - *Ellie Branch, *Adeline Brown, Da'Lonnice Banks, Mattie Clevinger, Mason Horner, Ryker Johnson, Natalie Mericle, Trent Reinhart, Payton Schroeder, Chance Turner, Emma Sue Walz, Everett Wilhelm

FIFTH GRADE:

Mrs. Beckman - *Braxton Dasher, *Emma Steingass, *Lilly Thomas, Mariana Adams, Allison Ball, Abby Cantu, Boston Foltz, Dulce Galeana Monterrubio, Ella Hale, Kolby Ringler, Merlia Veliz Jimenez

Mrs. Stoller - *Mallory Coressel, *Evelyn Dangler, *Ellie Niemasz, *Ashlynn Vance, Natalee Bittinger, Miracle Eustler, Grace LaBoe, Abby Leal, Angel Marcos Lara, Glen Smith, Libby Sprow

Mrs. Richards - *Nora Gochenour, *Harlow Kipfer, *Noah Miller, *Jacob Shaffer, *Keagan Willis, *Merrick Wolfe, Caydius Dobbelaere, Jesse Hull, Alonzo Miles, Kami Muhlenkamp, Madison Salisbury

PAULDING PULLS AWAY LATE TO DEFEAT MILLER CITY

MILLER CITY — A strong finish at the plate and a dominant outing in the circle lifted Paulding to a 10-4 win over Miller City on April 6.

Paulding jumped out early with three runs in the first inning and added another in the second to take a 4-0 lead. After Miller City got on the board in the third, both teams were held in check until the Panthers broke the game open with five runs in the sixth inning and added an insurance run in the seventh.

PJHS POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as stu-

dents of Paulding Junior High School.

Shown in the picture above are (from left) Larissa Bautista (Grade 8), Erick Hernandez (Grade 6), and Lucy Riethman (Grade 7).

PJHS STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic

performers at Paulding Junior High School.

Shown in the picture from left are Finn Bradford (Grade 8) and Rya Wright (Grade 6). Not pictured is Zoey Manz (Grade 7).

Miller City made a late push with three runs in the bottom of the seventh, but the comeback fell short.

Paulding recorded eight hits, led by Civil Pumphrey, who delivered two triples, scored twice, and drove in two runs. Madison Clark added a double and a triple while scoring a run and driving in two. Mariah Klopfenstein contributed a double and three RBIs, and Gracie Leal added a double and a run scored.

Cadence Schwab chipped in with a single and two runs, while Samantha Leal added a base hit. Tia Mendez and Darcy Taylor each crossed the plate as Paulding capitalized on scoring opportunities throughout the game. Luci Martinez also drove in a run.

Mendez earned the win with a strong performance in the circle, striking out 12 batters over seven innings while allowing just two hits and one earned run.

Miller City managed two hits, with singles from Alivia Palmer and Taryn David, who also scored a run. Kristen Dukes, Kierra Ruhe, and Clara Verhoff each drove in runs, while Sophia Ruck also scored.

Evie Deitering took the loss for Miller City, allowing 10 earned runs on eight hits over six innings. Ava Reichley pitched a scoreless seventh inning in relief.

"Really proud of our girls tonight battling the wind!" said Paulding coach Clark following the win.

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RESERVATIONS OPEN FOR "INSANE WITH POWER"



Lois Lancaster (Emily Smith) finds herself surrounded by "superheros" Mental (Aimee Lehman), Kevin Bendis (SlimPickens419), Dim Bulb (Nick Long) and Speed Demon (Spencer Wenninger)

Make reservations for Off Stage Productions' next dinner theatre show "Insane with Power", a two-act comedy written by Scott Haan. Show dates are April 17-19 and 24-26. Saturday and Sunday performances will be dinner theatre shows. For Saturday performances, doors open at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. For Sunday matinee performances, doors will open at 12:30 p.m., dinner at 1:00 p.m. and show at 2:00 p.m. Burtch's Barn to Table Catering will provide the buffet meals.

Both Friday performances will be "Popcorn Night" with no dinner included, but popcorn will be included with the cost of the show. Water and pop will also be available for purchase. Doors open for the Friday performances at 7:00 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m.

Performances will again be held in the Commons at Vantage Career Center, 818 N. Franklin Street, Van Wert, Ohio. Enter door 13 off the back parking lot where plenty of parking is available.

THE SHOW: Lois Lancaster is a big-city journalist writing about the current state of mental health facilities. Her research takes her to a hospital populated with a unique group of quirky inmates who imagine they are

crime-fighting superheroes. Speed Freak thinks he can run at incredible speeds, while Dim Bulb, the most enthusiastic person on the face of the earth, thinks he can turn off lights with his brain. Mental thinks she can read minds, despite being prone to sudden outbursts of bizarre non-sequiturs. Kevin, much less quirky and flamboyant than the other inmates, doesn't embarrass himself with a ridiculous code name or costume...at least, not initially. Dr. Gail Eisner appears to be a kind hospital administrator; a steady influence needed to effectively run a madhouse like this one. At first Lois finds their elaborate superhero fantasies to be an entertaining diversion, the wild delusions of unstable minds, until something unusual happens that makes her wonder....

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

Call 419-605-6708 to reserve your tables or seats!
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FOR SALE: Allis Chalmers 1956 WD 45 w/ manure spreader. Recently refurbished w/new parts. A list & expense can be furnished to interested buyer. Taking offers. Call or text 260-413-1405, leave message. 15-17p

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

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

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NEXT CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATION



Pictured with the donation are (l-r) Deb Hench - Donor, Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Sue Strausbaugh - Fund Holder.

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful to announce a \$1,000 gift from Deb Hench in support of the newly established Next Chapter Scholarship Fund. Hench, a Foundation member and longtime supporter of Defiance County initiatives, is helping grow this fund to create new opportunities for local students.

The Next Chapter Scholarship Fund was created to support graduating seniors in Defiance County who plan to continue their education but may not yet have chosen a specific field of study. The scholarship is open to stu-

dents pursuing trade school, a two-year, or a four-year degree, with preference given to those with financial need.

The Foundation is working to grow the fund to \$25,000, which will allow for a \$1,000 scholarship to be awarded annually in a sustainable way.

Community members who would like to support the Next Chapter Scholarship Fund can make a gift to the Defiance Area Foundation at 613 West Third Street, Defiance, or contact the Foundation to learn more about how to contribute.



OLD DOG, NEW TRICKS

Can an old dog learn new tricks. I guess after 80 years an old dog can still learn some new tricks. Making lists sounds like a good idea, which I seldom do, but there is something else I'm going to try.

All of my life I have had difficulty being organized. I have always accepted that I am just a disorganized person. I think I have found some ideas that might help. I find something I would like to put away, but every drawer, every countertop, and every cupboard, is filled to the brim. Nothing of any value, just

STUFF

I guess after living in the same house 50 plus years we have accumulated a few things, but are we hoarders. Some people just can't get rid of anything, and it just piles up. Hoarding can be a disease. Nature does not like a vacuum. If you build a table or a countertop or a cupboard you better fill it up quick, because I guarantee it will get filled up.

I have been accused of throwing things away that might be valuable. If I have something that someone might be able to use, rather than just let it hang there for eternity, let's see if someone might be able to use it. Twice I have thrown away things inadvertently. I threw away our birth certificates while cleaning out a file cabinet and didn't know they were there. We were able to get them re-

placed but it's a pain.

This year somehow I threw away our tax information. The only thing there is how much we made in interest and the bank can provide this, but it is a pain. I also threw away what we received in social security, and that would be harder to replace. I'm going to make a call in the morning.

We have a small plastic file cabinet. I took a new manila file folder and marked it 2026 tax info and told my wife when we get tax info to put it there. We had used a cardboard file folder before and I didn't realize that my wife was still using it. The old file folder was on a porch and there was so much junk I couldn't get to the cabinets. There were tax returns from 2009. So I threw away the old tax folders but somehow she had put the new information in the old file folder and I wasn't aware of it.

Lately I have been trying to keep things in order. Even on a table or countertop in good order and clean. If you keep things clean, it is much easier than to mess things up and then have to clean them. If you have a family, each one should know where things belong and keep things tidy and clean up behind yourself. It saves much time in the long run.

All her life my friend would never leave the kitchen with dirty dishes in the sink. I'm not saying you have to do this, but it is probably the easiest way if you're not a fan of dishes.

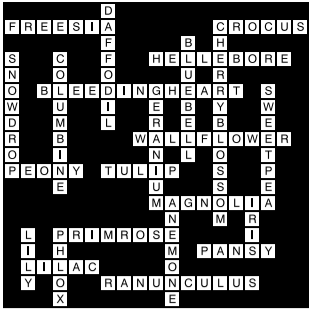
GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.

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us will face that day.

This was written on Easter 2026, and there is a new discovery, especially to me. Because Christ arose we need not fear death. Death is simply leaving this planet which we have absolutely no attachment to. We will miss seeing loved ones but only for a short time, and then we'll be together again.

—James Neuhouser



Crossword solution from page 9

DEFIANCE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING NOTES 4/2/26

The Board of Defiance County Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2026, in the Commissioners' Conference Room. President Dana Phipps called the meeting to order. Also present were Vice President Mick Pocratsky; Commissioner Matthew Koester; County Administrator, Sherry Carnahan; HR Coordinator, Emily Meyer; and Clerk, Liz Stuart.

The Commissioners met in General Session to approve and sign various resolutions, contracts, and documents.

The Commissioners also reviewed the calendar of events and discussed upcoming meetings.

The Commissioners met with Defiance Paulding Consolidated JFS to discuss matters related to setting up the Defiance County JFS as part of the deconsolidation process. They discussed the table of organization, minimum staffing levels and remote work allowances, and compensation for employees.

The Commissioners met with representatives from Fulton, Henry, Williams, and Wood Counties, CCAO, and Palmer Energy to discuss electrical aggregation. All counties agreed to join together for bids in an effort to reduce the price negotiated for all electrical customers in the aggregated communities.

Court Street will remain closed during the construction of the Courthouse Addition. The completion date of this project has been delayed and is currently uncertain.

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?

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

(pictures are extra)

HELP WANTED:

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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

HELP WANTED

The Hicksville Police Department is accepting applications or resumes for a Full Time Police Officer.

The applicant selected for the position must be able to work all shifts, holidays, and weekends as well as completing trainings as required.

The minimum qualifications for Position of Police Officer:

- Certified as a Police Officer in the State of Ohio
- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- 21 years of age
- Possess a Valid State of Ohio driver's license
- Pass a Criminal Background check
- Clear physical and drug screen

The acceptable candidate will have the ability to:

- Maintain effective working relationships with other Village of Hicksville employees, representatives or other agencies and organizations and members of the community.
- Adhere to department professional and ethical standards of conduct.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both verbally and in writing.
- Operate department issued equipment and gear, vehicles, standard office equipment, radios, computers, firearms, and any other specialized equipment

To apply for this position applicants will need to submit the following:

Applications can be picked up at the Hicksville Police Department. You can drop off or mail a Resume to the Hicksville Police Department.

Applicants will have till the end of the business day on April 30, 2026, to submit completed Application or Resume to the Hicksville Police Department, 510 W. High Street, Hicksville, Ohio 43526.

Questions about this position can be directed to Chief Mark Denning during normal business hours Monday through Friday.

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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!

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL PAYNE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER GROUNDBREAKING



On Tuesday, April 7th, members of Paulding County Hospital, the PCH Payne office, along with members of the village of Payne gathered at the site of the future PCH Payne Regional Medical Center, 100 S Hyman St., Payne, OH, for a groundbreaking.

The new facility will be very similar to the Regional Medical Center that is currently in operation in Antwerp. The Paulding

County Hospital board overseeing this new project took feedback from the Payne community and learned that people do really want a full service medical facility that will also include a fitness center like the one in Paulding and Antwerp.

Dr. Nigel Hogan and his family were there to take part in the ceremony, along with recently retired Dr. Joseph Kuhn, welcoming the addi-

tion to downtown Payne. Other local participants included Payne Mayor Lora Lyons, council members, County Commissioners, Township representatives, along with the Paulding County Hospital CEO Ron Goedde, and the Hospital Board of Trustees (pictured above).

The completion of the new facility is anticipated for Fall of 2026.

PASS BASKETBALL MARATHON MARKS 46 YEARS OF "PLAYING FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T"



The 46th Annual 24-Hour P.A.S.S. Basketball Marathon was held over Easter weekend, April 3-4, at the Payne Elementary School gymnasium, continuing a long-standing tradition of community support and around-the-clock basketball.

The weekend was filled with activity, beginning Friday evening with the first TOTS games and continuing through Saturday's events, which included the Payne Fire Department's sausage and pancake breakfast and the official opening ceremonies. Games were played every 24 minutes, starting at 5:00 p.m. Friday and continuing non-stop until 4:00 p.m. Saturday.

A total of 92 teams participated in this year's marathon across seven divisions, including four Mini-Tots teams, 14 Tots teams, four Youth teams, four Mini Youth teams, 28 Co-Ed teams, 36 Men's teams, and two Exhibition teams.

The marathon began in 1979, and funds raised from the annual event support the Paulding Area Support Society (P.A.S.S.). The organization provides specialized equipment and services to handicapped and medically challenged residents of Paulding County who are unable to afford them.

The P.A.S.S. Board includes President Karen Schlatter, Vice President Lula

PAULDING CO. COMPLETES FIRST HOME SALE THROUGH WELCOME HOME OHIO GRANT PROGRAM

PAULDING - The Paulding County Land Reutilization Committee (Land Bank), in coordination with the Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO), have officially completed the rehabilitation and sale of the first residence funded through the Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) grant program. This milestone marks an important step in providing affordable housing opportunities for qualifying residents in Paulding County.

Paulding County was awarded \$300,000 in funding through the Ohio Department of Development's WHO program, which provides up to \$30,000 in reimbursable costs per home, for as many as 10 residential rehabilitation projects. The WHO program

is designed to increase the availability of safe, affordable homes while supporting revitalization efforts in communities throughout the state.

The first WHO-assisted home, located at 714 N. Main in Paulding, was recently sold to Larry Sr. and Debra Bassler, who officially closed on the property this week. "Working with the Land Bank was a great experience," stated Larry Bassler, Sr. "They were very helpful and informative in what they were doing. They used good natured contractors that worked together as a team to complete the project. I would recommend the program to others."

Additional WHO projects are underway in the county as the Land Bank continues its efforts to bring more quality housing options to the local market.

Estee Blair with MVPO shared, "We're excited to see

our first home close through this program, demonstrating how strategic grant funding and partnerships can make homeownership more attainable for income-qualified buyers. We are looking for additional projects in both Paulding and Defiance Counties where these funds can help rehabilitate homes, address critical repairs, and bring more affordable housing to our communities."

Paulding County residents interested in learning more about the Welcome Home Ohio program, eligibility requirements, or upcoming housing opportunities are en-

couraged to contact MVPO at 419-784-3882 or visit www.mvpo.org/WHO for additional information.

OPENING DAYS DONUTS

The Woodburn Lions Club will have their Opening Day Donuts on Saturday, April 25 at the Harlan Park. Times will be 7:00 am - 11:00am, in front of the Shelter House.

A portion will be donated to the Harlan Athletic Association. There will also be donuts on May 2 at the Woodburn Park from 7:00 - 11:00 am. We will also be sup-

porting the Woodburn Youth League. Look for our full page ad in this issue for our schedule for 2026.

We are also supporting the locally owned Woodburn businesses who serve our community. Help Woodburn grow by supporting them. The Lions are always looking for new members as well as help in making our famous donuts. Call Monna Gerig 260-710-0900 if you can help. If you are interested becoming a member of the club call Denny Miesle 260-312-2674

See Woodburn Lions Club's ad on page 7 for 2026 schedule.

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Mae Ankney, Treasurer Marcia Pressler, Secretary Mary Ellen Holbrook, and board members Doris Smith, Tara Miller, Elaine Sierer, Judy Fisher, James Sponseller, Sue LaFountain, Pam Reese, Lindsey Manz, and Kacey Dershem.

Members of the Marathon Committee include Clint Reinhart, Chad Benschneider, Brett Beckman, John Claymiller, Jeremy Dunderman, Rylee and Braeden Hormann, Nick and Kaleigh McClain, Maria Piper, Russ Zinser, Henry Manz, Austin Conlon, and Cameron Bidlack.

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150 people	\$135.00 (150 Patties)	\$255.00 (150 Patties)	\$285.00 (42#)	\$590.00 (42#)
200 people	\$175.00 (200 Patties)	\$340.00 (200 Patties)	\$375.00 (56#)	\$780.00 (56#)

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- Buns: \$2.50/ Bag (8 Count)
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- Coleslaw: \$20.00/ 5# Container (25-30 Servings)
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