

# The WEST BEND NEWS

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 17

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

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026

## PEVS 2026 ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME RECIPIENTS



Betty Schlatter



Carlton Schlatter



Frank Lands

empted Village Schools Academic Hall of Fame induction will take place at the PHS Graduation ceremony on Sunday, May 17, beginning at 2:30 in the High School Gym. The following former Auglaize-Brown and Paulding High School graduates will be inducted:

**Betty Schlatter, CNM PhD - Auglaize-Brown High School Class of 1966**

Betty Schlatter graduated from Auglaize-Brown High School in 1966 as valedictorian and a member of the National Honor Society. She wanted to be a nurse from as

early as fourth grade and attended Toledo Hospital School of Nursing (THSN) with the benefit of an Allstate Foundation Scholarship for three years. At graduation, she was awarded the Edna E. Sharritt award from THSN. She worked as a nurse in various areas for ten years before attending grad school for nurse-midwifery. Her first job was in medical-surgical nursing at Paulding County Hospital where she then transferred to the Operating Room and Recovery Room before transferring to Defiance Hospital's Operating Room for several months and then attending a program in Toledo to work in the ICU/CCU when Defiance opened their unit. Betty then attended Defiance College and later Bowling Green State University to complete her BSN. Once that was completed, she was asked to teach at Northwest Technical College in Archbold in the Buckeye School of Practical Nursing. She then transferred to the Medical College of Ohio

(Continued on Page 2)

## HOLTSBERRY SEEKS RE-ELECTION, HIGHLIGHTS RECORD OF SERVICE AND COMMUNITY INVESTMENT



Commissioner Mark Holtsberry, a resident of Jackson Township, is seeking re-election as your County Commissioner in the May primary.

Over eleven years ago, he became a person who did not say why, but a person who said why not. Holtsberry's goal was, and always has been, to help improve the quality of life for over the 18,000 citizens of this county. Not all his deci-

sion making is done in the office two days a week, but out of the office in after hour meetings with the boards he serves on. This reflects the commitment to the success of our citizens of all ages. Every year the Commissioner's office has invested monies into the safety and welfare through the Sheriff's Department, Prosecutors Office, Emergency Management, Health Department and Soil and Water, just to name a few. Holtsberry has personally donated money several times to the Parks Board. Even defending them in court from being abolished. He is not afraid to stand alone even if the odds are not in his favor. He feels by standing alone, showing conviction, people will see what the right thing to do is. The Commissioner's office has invested monies into Economic Development and the Land Bank.

The success that the Land Bank has had in our County is very noticeable. The Commissioner's office has the right

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Support local Organizations & Businesses making this issue of the West Bend News

## Community Calendar

TUE & WED

• Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p ch of God, 10a & 6p

April 27

• Spring Revival @ Auglaize Chapel Church of God, 7p

April 29

• Heritage Tree planting @ Paulding Courthouse lawn, 9a  
• WBESC Board Meeting @ Paulding ESC Conf Rm, 5:30p  
• Spring Revival @ Auglaize Chapel Church of God, 7p

May 2

• Camping Bingo @ Oakwood Library, 11a  
• Author Brooke Ward @ Defiance Library, 11a-12p

May 5

• Author Christina Trevino @ Defiance Library, 4:30p

May 6

• Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p

May 7

• NH United Women in Faith Rummage Fundraiser @ New Haven UMC, 9a-3p  
• National Day of Prayer Comm. Service @ Oakwood Town Hall, 12p  
• Children's Movie Night @ Paulding Library, 5p

May 9

• Mom & Me Time @ Paulding Library, 9a-12p  
• Muffins w/ Mom @ Payne Library, 10a-12p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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• Former owner of Past-Time Cafe  
• Republican Candidate for Paulding County Commissioner  
• Proven Leadership. Local Commitment with a vision for Paulding County's Future.  
• Love for Paulding County – You Know You're From Paulding County, Ohio when.... Facebook Group  
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## OBITUARIES



CECIL, OH:

**Harry G Poulson** of Wayne Trace High School Track Invitational - Girls Results Cecil (Ohio) died April 13, 2026. He was born May 5, 1942, Bluffton Indiana. Harry worked 39 years at GM Powertrain Defiance as a Machinist. He enjoyed restoring and pulling antique John Deere tractors.

Harry was preceded in death by his parents: Everett and Mabel Poulson; and brother, Charles Poulson

He was survived by his wife, Karen Poulson; son, Bryan Poulson (Jodi); daughter, Stephanie Poulson; grandsons, Jake Arend, Connor Arend, and Josh Poulson (Sierra); brother, Ted Poulson (Nancy); and sister-in-law: Merrilee Poulson

Services were held April 21, 2026 with visitation at Derrick Funeral Home, Lake Geneva WI. Buried same day at: The Linn-Hebron Cemetery, Hebron IL.

(Continued from Page 1)

in Toledo to teach maternity nursing and learned about nurse-midwifery.

Betty moved to Oak Park, IL in the Fall of 1979 to attend the nurse-midwifery program at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Upon completion, she was awarded a graduate fellowship and taught in the midwifery program until she was hired as Director of Nurse-Midwifery at Illinois Masonic Medical Center where she worked as Director for seven years, then as staff nurse-midwife while also serving as the Coordinator of the Nurse-Midwifery Education Program for several years at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Once retired from the Coordinator position at UIC, she continued to work as a staff nurse-midwife at IMMC until retirement in 2021, having worked for nearly 40 years at 'the best nurse-midwifery job in the world.'

While working as a nurse-midwife, she received the Perinatal Association of Illinois Achievement Award and the ACNM Award for Excellence from her local professional association.

Betty loved her teachers at Auglaize-Brown HS and often has remarked how fortunate she was to have so many local teachers who put so much of themselves into teaching their students. It seemed obvious that they cared and wanted

their students to do well and contribute to their communities. That included many high school teachers: Mrs. Belau, Mr. Roughton, Mrs. Day, Miss Williams and others. Though it was a small high school, the students were blessed with many competent and caring teachers. Betty is now retired and works as a volunteer with refugees who came to our country because of persecution for their Christian faith. This has been a blessing as she has seen the Hand of God leading her life. She continues to live in Oak Park, IL.

**Carlton Schlatter, DVM- PHS Class of 1979**

Blessed with the heritage to be raised on his family livestock farm in Paulding County, Carlton Schlatter developed a desire to pursue animal husbandry as a career. Following high school graduation in 1979, he enrolled in the College of Agriculture at The Ohio State University and received a Bachelor of Science degree in Dairy Science in 1993. Pursuing advanced education, he received his Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine in 1987. While at Veterinary College after his junior year he received the Junior Service Award for outstanding service to the college and community. Following completion of his senior year, he received both the AVMA Auxiliary Award for outstanding service to the college and community and the Award for Excellence in Food Animal Medicine and Surgery. In addition, he was elected to serve as Class President each of the four years of his Veterinary education.

In 1987 following graduation, Carlton was hired as an associate veterinarian at Northwest Veterinary Hospital in Wauseon, Ohio. Beyond his veterinary responsibilities and through providing services and mentorship to the Wauseon High School Vocational Agricultural students, he was awarded the FFA Honorary Chapter Farmer Award. In pursuit of more dairy production medicine, he took employment at Sugar Creek Veterinary Clinic in Sugar Creek, Ohio in 1989. In 1994, Carlton founded Tri-County Animal Clinic, Inc. in West Salem, Ohio, where he is currently co-owner and president of a now four veterinarian mixed companion and production animal practice.

Other professional affiliations that Carlton has been involved with include: Current Board member of Farmers State Bank and the Community Independent Bancorp. Past board member of Apostolic Christian Village, and the Gateway Woods Children's Home, Treasurer of Killbuck Valley Veterinary Medical Association, Adjunct Faculty member of OSU College of Veterinary Medicine; Member

## CHURCH FOOD PANTRY MARKS 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO COMMUNITY



MELROSE — A ministry that began as a leap of faith is now celebrating two decades of service to the community. The Auglaize Chapel Church of God food pantry is marking its 20th anniversary in 2026, continuing its mission of providing food assistance and support to individuals and families throughout the Melrose area.

The pantry was created after church members identified a need for accessible food resources for those facing difficult circumstances. Although there were initial concerns about whether a small congregation could sustain such an effort, the decision was made to move forward, and the impact has steadily grown ever since.

Since opening on April 29, 2006, the pantry has operated out of the church at 515 Franklin Street in Melrose. It has become a dependable resource for residents, regularly serving dozens of families each month with essential food items.

The pantry is open on the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. Participation fluctuates de-

pending on the time of year, with attendance typically ranging from 30 to 60 families during each distribution.

The effort remains largely volunteer-driven, with a dedicated group assisting in all aspects of the operation, including food pickups, stocking, and distribution. Additional help is provided by church members and community volunteers as needed. Food supplies are sourced primarily through the West Ohio Food Bank in Lima, supplemented by donations from local businesses, manufacturers, farmers, and individuals.

Over the past 20 years, the pantry has grown into more than just a place to receive food. It has also served as a point of connection within the community, offering support and care to those in need while encouraging volunteer involvement and outreach.

As it reaches this milestone anniversary, the Auglaize Chapel Church of God food pantry continues to stand as a testament to long-term commitment and community cooperation, providing both nourishment and encouragement to those it serves.

of American and Ohio Veterinary Medical Associations, and the American Association of Bovine Practitioners; he is active in various church committees and Sunday School; and he completed an Ohio Dairy Health and Management Certificate Program.

In reflection, he wanted to recognize some influential past Paulding High School teachers including: Dennis Saam - Mentored especially in career choice and remains a longtime friend; Paul "Pete" Ladd - High school biology teacher exemplified practicality and responsibility; and June Curtis - Geometry teacher who made a challenging class fun.

In summary, Carlton has felt God's blessings in his occupation to work in the fields of animal welfare, the production of safe and wholesome foods, and the arena of public health. He enjoys the variety he has as he works on dairy and hobby farms, the relationships with the farming community, and the opportunity to see the miracle of life and the beauty of nature in its many stages and seasons. One of Carlton's favorite hobbies involves the anticipation of honey production from his pet honeybees.

His family consists of his wife of 30 years, Candi, two daughters and the recent addition of a son-in-law.

**Frank Lands - PHS Class**

**of 1992**

Frank Lands is a 1992 graduate of Paulding High School. He received his bachelor's degree in Natural Resources from the Ohio State University in 2000, and holds a master degree in Public Administration from the University of Texas and a masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Mr. Lands has served in a wide range of senior leadership positions within the Department of War, including assignments serving as the senior civilian executive and principal advisor to the Commander for four of the largest, most complex installations in the military, and he served in multiple U.S. Army active duty and reserve assignments between 1991 and 1998. He is a medically retired, disabled veteran with multiple deployments including Iraq and Haiti.

Between 2014 and 2021; Mr. Lands held the positions of Deputy Garrison Commander at Fort Rucker, AL; Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD; US Army Garrison Italy; and Fort Bliss, TX where he led the mobilization of over 50,000 Soldiers annually in support of missions across five continents. In 2020, he led the construction and operation of the two of largest illegal migrant and Afghan refugee camps in the Nation.

Frank is currently the

## Scripture of the Week

"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

— 1 Peter 1:18-19

## ZECHARIAH



1. "Then he said to me, 'This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty." - Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

2. Zerubbabel was given the responsibility to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. After they returned from exile in Babylon, 70 years.

3. The prophets Zechariah and Haggai gave moral and spiritual encouragement to resume work on the temple. The prophet's primary task was to proclaim the word of the Lord, pointing out sin, explaining its consequences, and calling sinners to repentance and obedience.

4. Many people believe that, to survive in this world, you must be tough, strong,

unbending, and harsh. But God says, "not by might nor by Power but by my spirit!"

5. It is only through God's Spirit that anything of lasting value is accomplished!

6. As you live for God, be determined not to trust in your strength or abilities; instead, depend on God, and work in the power of His Holy Spirit!

7. Here is Psalms 20:7 (NIV): "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God."

8. Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NIV) states: "23 This is what the Lord says: 'Let not the wise boast of their wisdom or the strong boast of their strength or the rich boast of their riches, 24 but let the one who boasts boast about this: that they have the understanding to know me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,' declares the Lord."

9. This passage emphasizes the importance of knowing and understanding God rather than relying on worldly achievements.

10. Ephesians 6:10 (NIV): "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power."

God bless!

Peace and love...

—Pastor Dwayne

Deputy Director of the National Park Service/Department of Interior. He plays a crucial role in leading more than 20,000 National Park Service employees who care for America's 433 national parks. He is responsible for overseeing park operations at iconic National landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, Yellowstone, The White House, Lincoln Memorial, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon. Prior to this, Frank served as the National Park Service Regional Director for the Pacific West, where he demonstrated wide ranging executive skills, including leading the Bureau's emergency response during Hurricanes Milton and Helene in 2024. Prior to the natural disaster, Mr. Lands led efforts to increase capacity for the Agency's Emergency Management by 75 percent. As a result, the National Park Service was able to rapidly deploy over 300 employees to support rescue, response and cleanup efforts, saving many victims during the hurricanes. Frank resides in Reston, VA.

Nomination forms for future Academic Hall of Fame candidates can be found on the school website, www.pauldingschools.org, under the Academics tab, along with all past inductees.

## FRUCHEY FAMILY TO CELEBRATE 100-YEAR REUNION

The descendants of Samuel and Amelia Binkley Fruchey will gather for their 100-year family reunion on Sunday, May 17, at 1:00 p.m. The event will be held at Fresh Encounter Woods, located at 20700 Road 48 in Grover Hill, Ohio.

The reunion will feature a potluck dinner, with attendees asked to bring their own table service and beverages. The gathering will take place in an air-conditioned building with indoor plumbing.

Samuel and Amelia Fruchey were the parents of several children, including Rosella "Ella" Ross, who married Robert Ross; Elizabeth Vance, who married Cloyce Vance; Oakley Straley, who married Raymond Straley; and John David Fruchey, who married Freddie David. Two children, Clarence and Nellie, both passed away at the age of three, and one child was still-born.

As part of the reunion, a special service will be held to honor three family members who gave their lives in service to the country: Wendell Vance, Ray Dean Ross, and William "Billy" Carter.

Anyone with ties to the

# DOOLEY

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**THE GERM GOT ME**

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

This week has been a toughie with a big sinus infection that moved down into my chest. It was so weird that when I went to bed I sounded like me, but when I woke up, my voice sounded like a man's.

I know there is a lot of bacteria and bugs going around so I just continued to cough and feel rotten.

I literally coughed all the time and my head felt like it was gonna fall off.

I had a music gig on Thursday and after getting all polished up, I decided go. It went good, but following that then I headed over to Ohio Health's North clinic. Once they took

my vitals, and yes I had a fever, they proceeded to tell me to sit still and relax.

The nurse came back in and they had prescribed me antibiotics and hopefully I will be up and at 'em in no time.

My gramma probably would not get antibiotics for our illnesses, but she would have been busy warming up milk and making toast for hot milk toast, and have this stuff called musterole which was a tube of the awfulest smelly and hottest thing on earth! In fact, if you see any anywhere, get me a tube 'cause I think they quit making it.



Then me some of your old tried and true cold remedies and I will give you A Penny For Your Thoughts!

(Continued from Page 1)

people in the right places to get creative and make bold moves towards progress. With the use of American Relief Act monies, Holtsberry takes pride in knowing that our Court House has new energy efficient windows Broadband installed in numerous sections of the county. When other counties spend \$100,000.00 dollars for studies for broadband, Holtsberry picked up a landline phone and reached out to educators for advice. Our County has seen growth through partnerships. Investing into job creation, retention and various infrastructure projects as well as projects dealing with the growth of our own various park projects.

Holtsberry's goal of reaching out for state and federal monies to further assist in the current county programs is still in place. Our Senior Cen-

ter, Parks Board, Senior Citizen Home Repair Program, Help Me Grow infant and youth program, just to name a few, have benefited from extra funding that Holtsberry has secured. His time spent with various community service programs has been very rewarding to him. He will never say no if some group wants him to speak. He is honored to be invited to speak, help out where he can, providing words of comfort or motivate others. With is conservative Christian values, which he was taught at an early age, he will continue to stand up for our citizens of our county. He is reminded what his mother told him a month before she passed away, "I taught you to be a leader, not a leaner." It has been a wonderful pleasure to serve the citizens of this county for the past eleven years. God Bless you, our county and our country!

Fruchey family is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Shelby Jean Barnes Noffsinger at 419-204-3664.

**CORRECTION**

In last week's West Bend News, there was some incorrect information in the article from the Antwerp VFW's recent donations. David Bash, Paulding County Dog Warden received \$1000 (not \$5000 as was published) from Quartermaster Veronica Jasso of Antwerp VFW Post 5087.

We apologize for this oversight.  
—WBN editors

**OAKWOOD TO HOST NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER COMMUNITY SERVICE**

OAKWOOD - Community members are invited to gather in unity and reflec-

tion during the upcoming National Day of Prayer Community Service, scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2026, at Oakwood Town Hall.

The service will begin at 12:00 noon and is open to all who wish to participate in a time of prayer for the nation, community, and future generations. The annual observance brings individuals together across denominations and backgrounds to seek guidance, strength, and encouragement through prayer.

This year's theme, "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations," is drawn from I Chronicles 16:24 (NASB), emphasizing a message of faith that spans across all ages and communities.

Organizers encourage residents from Oakwood

**COOPER FAMILY FOUNDATION BOOSTS PAULDING GYM BLEACHER FUND WITH MAJOR DONATION**



Pictured (l-r) are Chris Etzler, PEVS Superintendent; Heather Cooper and Dianne Cooper, Cooper Family Foundation; and Jake Thiel, PEVS Treasurer.

Paulding Schools extends sincere thanks to the Cooper Family Foundation for their generous donation toward the high school gym bleacher re-

placement project. This contribution brings the total donated amount to \$125,000, with the overall project cost estimated at \$700,000.

**ELKS LODGE #0147 NAMED ENTERTAINMENT SPONSOR FOR DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA**



Pictured (l-r) are Katie Groff Held - Defiance Area Foundation Gala Committee Member and Brittany Mealer - Elks Lodge #147 Club Manager.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to recognize Elks Lodge #147 as an Entertainment Sponsor for its 2026 Gala, contributing a generous \$5,000 to support this year's event.

This sponsorship will provide live entertainment for the evening, featuring the Bluewater Kings Band of Columbus, Ohio. Known for their high-energy performances and wide-ranging musical style, the band will help create a memorable experience for

Gala guests.

The Defiance Area Foundation Gala will be held on October 3, 2026, bringing community members together in support of the Defiance County Community Fund, which provides grants to address local needs and support nonprofit organizations throughout the county.

For more information about the Gala or sponsorship opportunities, visit defianceareafoundation.org/gala.

and surrounding areas to attend and take part in this meaningful gathering. The National Day of Prayer has long served as a reminder of the importance of faith, unity, and reflection in both local communities and across the country.

The event provides an opportunity for individuals, families, and leaders to come together in a shared moment of prayer, focusing on hope and purpose for the year ahead.

**PAULDING COUNTY DESIGNATED AN ADVANCED LIFE SCIENCES READY COMMUNITY**

PAULDING COUNTY—Ohio Life Sciences has officially designated Paulding County as an Advanced Life Sciences Ready Community, recognizing the county's strong foundation for supporting growth in the biotech and life sciences sectors.

This designation highlights communities that demonstrate readiness for industry investment through workforce strength, available sites, supportive zoning, and a

commitment to fostering life-science innovation. The Advanced level reflects Paulding County's preparedness to attract and support companies in biotechnology, medical research, pharmaceuticals, and related fields.

A key factor contributing to Paulding County's selection is its central geographic location between several major medical and research hubs, including Fort Wayne, Defiance, and Lima. This proximity provides access to larger healthcare systems, talent pipelines, and collaborative opportunities, all of which strengthen the county's position as a competitive site for life-science investment.

As part of the designation, Paulding County will be featured on the Ohio Life Sciences (OLS) website and included in statewide communications promoting Life Sciences Ready Communities. OLS will also share the announcement through social media venues to increase visibility among industry leaders and site selectors.

Ohio Life Sciences notes that the Life Science Ready Community program is de-

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

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**

By: Mark Holtsberry

Joseph Tomsey was born January 11, 1894, in Strassnitz, Bohemia-Austria. He was the son of Frank (Franz) Tomsey,



born in 1864 in Bohemia, and Anna (Numan) Tomsey, born May 26, 1862. After their marriage in 1886, the couple became the parents of Joseph, born in 1894, and Phyllis (Filomena), born August 25, 1895.

This family became naturalized citizens in 1907, and in 1910 they migrated to Hicksville, Ohio. Phyllis married John Polasek in 1913. They had two daughters and lived in the Hicksville area. Around 1915, it is believed that Joseph moved to the Oakwood area.

On June 5, 1917, Joseph went to the West Brown Township precinct and registered for the World War I draft. He was listed as single, a naturalized alien, of medium height and build, with blue eyes and dark brown hair. At the time, he was working as a farm laborer in Section 30 of Brown Township as an employee of the Columbia Sugar Company, which is believed to have been the sugar beet factory in Paulding. He listed no dependents relying on him for support.

On July 28, 1917, Joseph joined the National Guard out of Paulding. He served in Company B, 2nd Ohio National Guard, until October 4, 1917. He was then assigned to the National Army, serving in the 146th Infantry until May 22, 1918. He was later sent to Camp Sherman to serve in the 156th Depot Brigade until August 29, 1918. He was then assigned to the Auxiliary Remount Department, 315th Quartermaster Corps, until March 27, 1919, when he was honorably discharged.

This unit was part of the U.S. Army's Remount Service, which provided horses, mules, and service dogs to military units. The service later evolved to systematically breed horses for the U.S. Cavalry. It played a crucial role in supplying horses, with 33 auxiliary remount depots established during World War I to meet military demands.

In 1920, Frank Tomsey was working as a beet laborer at the Columbia Sugar Company. He passed away on January 7, 1923, and was buried in Forest Home Cemetery in Hicksville. After his death, Anna remarried in 1925 to a man named Jay Greenwood, who passed away on March 12, 1930. Anna later died from diabetes on January 19, 1943, and was also buried in Forest Home Cemetery.

In 1928, Phyllis remarried Orville Miller. She passed away in 1974 and was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery as well.

As for Joseph, he passed away at the National Military Hospital in Dayton, Ohio, on September 28, 1941. He was laid to rest on October 1, 1941, in the Dayton National Cemetery in Dayton, Ohio, where he received a military upright tombstone.

... Until Next Time!

signed to spotlight locations across Ohio that are best positioned for life-science investment and expansion, helping companies identify communities with the infrastructure and workforce needed to support long-term growth.

Tim Copey, Director with the Paulding County Economic Development office commented, "We are extremely blessed to receive this designation and are thankful

to the State of Ohio for seeing the potential here in north-west Ohio, and specifically in Paulding County. We are ready to assist investors in future development that will enhance the life science industry in the region."

Paulding County is proud to receive this recognition and looks forward to leveraging this designation to support future economic development opportunities.

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# PAULDING COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY HOST MEET & GREET EVENT



The Paulding County Republican Party hosted a meet and greet event on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Paulding, drawing a crowd of local residents and candidates seeking office at the national, state and local levels.

The event, which ran from 5 to 8 p.m. and included a soup and sandwich supper prepared by the Paulding County Republican Women, provided an opportunity for voters to meet candidates ahead of the upcoming primary and general elections.

Among those in attendance was Ohio Auditor Keith Faber, who is running for attorney general. Faber told attendees there will be no primary race for the position and encouraged voters to participate in the November general election. He emphasized the role of the attorney general in holding individuals accountable, stating the office is responsible for addressing those who "lie, cheat and steal" across the state while supporting law enforcement and maintaining affordability for residents.

Congressional candidates for Ohio's 9th District also addressed the crowd. Alea Nadeem spoke about her background as an intelligence

officer and her concern over the national debt, calling it "a math problem" and pledging not to support increases to the deficit. Madison Sheehan outlined priorities including protecting women's sports, expanding economic opportunity in northwest Ohio and restoring the rule of law. Josh Williams shared his personal story and highlighted his experience as majority whip in the Ohio House, while Derek Merrin emphasized border security, constitutional principles and preserving the American dream.

Candidates for statewide office also presented their platforms. Jay Edwards discussed rising property and energy costs and proposed increasing investment of state funds in community banks. Kristina Roegner highlighted her financial background and experience in state government, describing the treasurer as the state's chief fiscal watchdog. Marcell Strbich focused on election integrity, advocating for stronger verification processes and limiting third-party involvement in ballot handling.

State legislative candidates also spoke, including Craig Riedel and Jim Hoops, both of whom emphasized limited

ability, and issues such as energy and workforce development. Roy Klopfenstein discussed energy policy and property taxes, noting the long-term challenges of reducing costs while maintaining services.

Additional remarks were made by Tony Schroeder, who encouraged voter engagement, and local candidates including Angie Stoller, who is running unopposed.

At the county level, Mark Holtsberry spoke about his experience on various committees and the importance of maintaining representation at the decision-making table. Mike Iler highlighted his connection to the community and pride in Paulding County, while Matt Miller addressed his candidacy following his appointment to the position.

The event also featured participation from younger attendees, including local volunteer Timothy Coy, who spoke briefly about the importance of listening and civic involvement.

Organizers noted that the meet and greet was intended to give voters a chance to ask questions, learn about candidates and engage directly with those seeking public office ahead of the election season.

lage Schools district, it's hard not to feel an overwhelming sense of pride when reflecting on the current school year. Every day, we see our children growing—not just academically, but as individuals who are gaining confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging. What's happening in our schools is something special.

We've watched our students succeed in the classroom, with the district improving to a 3.5-star rating on the State Report Card. That number represents real progress—students learning more, teachers finding new ways to connect, and a school system committed to getting better every single day.

But the success goes far beyond test scores.

Students are gaining real-world experience too. With programs like the after-school welding program, our students are earning college credit and industry-recognized certifications. Programs like these are opportunities that help set our kids up for meaningful careers and successful futures.

We see it in the little things too—the excitement of a child coming home from choir practice, the pride after a band performance, or the confidence built through participating in a school play. This year alone, more than 100 students came together for a combined choir performance. That kind of participation doesn't happen by accident—it happens when kids feel supported and are inspired.

As parents, we also have filled the stands and auditoriums, watching our kids perform, compete, and shine. From an undefeated football season—the first in 37 years—to record-setting boys and girls basketball teams, then add in state qualifiers in cheerleading, cross country and wrestling, our students are showing us what hard work and dedication look like. Watching our students' success, we're reminded that these schools are truly the heart of our community.

We are incredibly grateful for the teachers, staff, and administrators who make all of this possible. They all go above and beyond every day to create opportunities for our children.

But alongside that pride, there is also concern.

As parents, we trust that when we send our children to school, they are learning in safe, comfortable, and well-maintained environments. Unfortunately, that is becoming harder for the district to guarantee. Many of the buildings our children learn in are aging, and critical systems are wearing out or simply don't work.

We have classrooms that are too hot or too cold because the heating and cooling systems are failing. Boilers that are nearly four decades old are struggling to keep up. Air conditioning systems don't have the capacity they once did. Plumbing issues are becoming more frequent. Roofs will soon need to be replaced. These aren't cosmetic concerns—they directly affect the day-to-day experience of our children and teachers.

The financial reality facing the district is difficult at best. State funding has not kept pace, and new legislation is reducing revenue even further by more than \$1.3 million, equaling about 7% of our total revenue. While costs continue

to rise, the current funds provided to maintain buildings, replace equipment, and invest in the future just simply aren't enough.

As parents, we understand the importance of being responsible with money. The district has worked hard to stretch every dollar—securing grants, improving efficiency, and making tough decisions. But there comes a point where doing more with less is no longer possible.

That's why the upcoming 0.75% income tax levy matters.

This levy is about maintaining what we have and protecting what makes our schools strong. It will provide funding to repair and replace aging HVAC systems, fix roofs, address plumbing issues, update technology, and ensure safe and reliable transportation for our students. It would also allow the district to plan ahead instead of constantly reacting to emergencies.

For many families, the cost is manageable—about \$5.77 per week for someone earning \$40,000 a year. But the impact for our schools—and our children—would be significant. For the retirees in our district on fixed incomes like Social Security or disability benefits, won't pay this tax at all.

Without the passage of this tax, the district will be forced to make cuts that affect programs, staffing, or services. As parents, that's a difficult reality to consider. We've seen what our schools are capable of, and we don't want to lose the opportunities that are helping our children succeed.

This isn't just about buildings or budgets. It's about our kids. It's about making sure they continue to have access to the same opportunities, support, and experiences that have made this year so special.

As a parent, I am proud of what Paulding Exempted Village Schools has provided to me and my family. I'm proud of the teachers who care deeply about our students. I'm proud of the programs that are preparing our kids for the future. And most of all, I'm proud of the students who represent our community so well.

Now, we have an opportunity to come together and support them.

Because when we invest in our schools, we are investing in our children—and there is nothing more important than that.

Respectfully,  
—Jeremy Dasher  
Paulding, OH

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sometimes\*

Sometime when you're feeling important;

Sometime when your ego's in bloom;

Sometime when you take it for granted,

You're the best qualified in the room;

Sometime when you feel that you're going,

Would leave an unfillable hole;

Just follow this simple instruction,

And see how it humbles your soul.

Take a bucket and fill it with water;

Put your hand in it up to your wrist;

Pull it out and the hole that's remaining,

Is the measure of how you'll be missed.

You may splash all you please when you enter;

You can stir up the water galore;

But stop, and you'll find in a minute

That it looks quite the same as before.

The moral in this quaint example,

Is to do the best you can.

Be proud of yourself, but remember—

There is no indispensable man.

—Anon.

—Dave Laukhuf,  
Paulding, OH

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am a parent, resident, and small business owner in the Paulding Exempted Village Schools district.

The amount of opposition I am seeing and hearing to the school levy is just baffling to me. People don't seem to understand that this levy is an income-based levy, not one tied to property taxes. The weight of this levy does not fall only on those who own property; it is spread among those who work.

There are also special restrictions so that it does not affect our older residents on fixed incomes.

I agree that something needs to happen at the state level to get the ship righted, but making the kids—who are our future—pay the price immediately is not the answer in my book. For someone who makes \$40,000 per year, this levy is asking for \$5.77 per week, or about \$300 per year. Most people spend well over this amount on things far less important than our schools and our children.

*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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Antwerp, OH 45813

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In nearly 40 years of personally supporting candidates

for an upcoming election I've never written a letter to the editor. But given some negative campaigning that I have been exposed to, I felt this necessary.

Last fall I heard that Josh Williams, a Republican candidate for US Congress had visited our Paulding County Commissioners. One topic discussed was how expensive it is to replace or install a new rural septic system. I was particularly interested in this. As a township trustee, I have seen how state laws have created a cost burden on our rural people. I have seen new building projects thwarted due to these state policies.

Josh relayed this conversation to our Paulding County Trustees Association meeting in January. I don't ever recall a congressional candidate coming to one of our township meetings. And this was the first of two he attended with our Township Association. What stood out most wasn't just that Josh listened while in Paulding County to concerns, it was how quickly he turned that conversation into action. Within days of that initial conversation with the commissioners, he was already working with the Ohio EPA to explore possible solutions and identify ways to ease the burden these costs are placing on

families in Paulding County and across Northwest Ohio.

You might ask yourself, "Why would a Paulding County farmer support a candidate who grew up in inner city Toledo". Well, I spoke with a few people who serve with Josh on the state level. I was pleased that they had already endorsed Josh based on his work ethic and his desire to serve the entire district and not just the points of higher population. They share shared with me details that Josh Williams is a friend of agriculture.

You probably won't see Josh endorsed by famous people or entertainers but we need representatives who listen to local leaders, understand rural communities, and are willing to roll up their sleeves to get things done. The endorsements he has are from Ohio county officials, county sheriffs, and individuals who have worked with him on the state level. Based on my personal experience I am confident Josh Williams will do exactly that in Congress.

Sincerely,

—Joseph B. Barker  
Antwerp, OH

## LETTER TO EDITOR

As a parent and taxpayer in the Paulding Exempted Vil-

Without this levy, drastic cuts will be made. Faculty will be reduced, and class sizes will increase.

Teachers will no longer be able to provide the level of support needed to help students succeed because they will have too many students in each class. That responsibility will shift to parents, or worse, the child may struggle or fail.

In addition, sports are likely to become pay-to-play. I ask everyone in this district to think about your family and friends who have children currently participating—or who will participate—in school athletics. Because of a lack of support, these families may be forced to take on a much greater financial burden. For some, that simply won't be an option. And what happens to school sports then? Gone.

It doesn't stop there. Field trips? Gone. Programs outside the state-mandated curriculum—such as FFA, industrial arts, life skills, and Advanced Placement courses? Gone. These are the very experiences that many of us had the opportunity to enjoy as students, and they are now at risk. All of this is happening because our school is being asked to operate on a financial structure based on costs from more than 20 years ago.

Think about your own household. What if you were asked to manage your budget today using numbers from two decades ago? It would be impossible. The cost of goods and services has increased dramatically, yet our schools are being expected to “make it work” by those opposing the levy.

I also hear people say they do not have children in the

school district, so they should not have to support it. However, many of those same individuals likely benefited from the school system when they were younger, supported by others in the community. Our schools receive less funding each year and are still expected to improve outcomes.

Before placing blame on our local school board, it is important to understand that this is not unique to our district. This is a statewide issue, and many districts are facing the same challenges.

I see this community come together time and time again to support one another. We rally around causes and help those in need. So when it comes to our schools—our children and our future—why would we choose not to do the same? What sense does that make?

—Nathan Schlegel  
Paulding, OH

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

**A Modest Proposal (satire, obviously)**

A community got together to address a pressing matter. Productivity had been down severely, and sexual crime and violence had been on the rise. After thoughtful consideration, a well designed plan was put forward for the greater good of the community. In order to increase productivity and bring down sexual crime, it was decided that the women in the community would need to provide their bodies as a public good for the sexual satisfaction of the men in the community. In order to make it

fair, women would be ranked on their attractiveness and performance so that more

attractive women would be providing their fair share and lower the burden on less attractive women. Each woman would have to provide a certain rate of public service relative to their attractive score, and levies would be put up for a vote when the community had greater need.

A majority of the community believed this was a reasonable proposal and the measure was passed with 60%. However, not without controversy. You see, the fathers of more attractive daughters felt this was unfair as their daughters were forced to provide more for the public good, while the fathers of unattractive sons felt it was very fair as it gave more opportunities to their sons who normally wouldn't get the chance for sexual activity.

Those who voted against the proposal entirely said that it violated the rights of the women involved, but the authors of the bill said that if you live in a community and utilize public commodities, then you must pay your fair share, and besides, the matter was voted on democratically, and everybody knows that if it is

democratically voted on then you got your say and the rest of society overruled you.

Obviously, this is satire. The entire proposal is immoral and repugnant. However, it is an illustration to make the point that property taxation is the same level of damage to the autonomy of people. When a person works, they are exchanging their labor for credit/monetary gain. To then forcefully take that from somebody is tantamount to theft and/or slavery. If “no” truly means “no”, as we teach our toddlers, then the violation of autonomy in such a manner is always wrong. All of the people who are so strongly advocating for property taxes and increasing thereof are perfectly welcome to donate all of their extra income. Taxes are the minimum amount you must give the government. You are allowed to give as much as you want if you truly believe it is such a good cause. You do not need to enslave your neighbor to give money to your preferring organization.

—Jarrison Steiner  
Antwerp, OH

**PAULDING HS QUIZ BOWL TEAM TO COMPETE NATIONALLY**

With its strong finish at the Green Meadows Conference Quiz Bowl, the quiz bowl team from Paulding High School proved themselves worthy to play on a national stage. On April 24, the team represented their school in a 154-team national competition: National Academic Quiz Tournaments' Small School National Championship Tournament.

Quiz bowl is a competitive, academic, interscholastic activity for teams of four students. Quiz bowl teams use buzzers to answer questions about science, math, history, literature, mythology, geography, social science, current events, sports, and popular culture. The matches feature a blend of individual competition and team collaboration, since no individual player is likely to be an expert in all subject areas. Participation in quiz bowl both reinforces lessons from the classroom and encourages players to develop new intellectual interests.

Paulding has attended the Small School National Championship Tournament once before in 2024 finishing 0-10.

The SSNCT is the only quiz bowl national championship pitting small schools

against each other. It has one division containing non-selective public schools with 500 or fewer students in their top three grades, and another division for other schools with 350 or fewer students in their top three grades. Paulding may face familiar foes in Rosemont, as Edgerton, Montpelier, and Parkway will also be attending.

The team comes in with some nationals experience: Xander Schwab played the 2024 Individual Player National Championship Tournament in Rosemont, Illinois (near Chicago) and Xander Schwab played the 2024 Individual Player National Championship Tournament in Rosemont, Illinois (near Chicago).

The team, in the Traditional Public Schools Division, is captained by Xander Schwab, along with Gracie Ametewee, Sean Elder, Izzy Lamb, Vivi Myers, Miracle Omonayin, and Laila Stiltner. The team is coached by Jon Rhodes.

Tournament results will be updated throughout the three days of competition at <https://www.naqt.com/go/stats/17101>. You can also follow #ssnct on Instagram.

**EMERGENCY FUNDS OFFER BREATHING ROOM WHEN IT MATTERS**

Everyone needs an emergency fund. Financial experts recommend it, and we've all experienced surprise expenses: a costly car repair, a broken water heater or unexpected medical bills. Despite our best intentions, building a financial cushion can feel impossible. After rent or mortgage, groceries, utilities and everyday expenses, it seems there's nothing left to save.

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Many Americans struggle to maintain emergency savings. But building those savings doesn't necessarily require massive lifestyle changes or windfalls. With a strategic approach and realistic milestones, you can create the financial safety net you need.

Start small and build momentum. Traditional advice suggests saving three to six months of total expenses. It's excellent goal but can feel overwhelming when you're starting from zero.

Instead, begin with a more achievable target, such as \$500 or a full month's worth of expenses. The key is to get started and contribute consistently.

Even a few hundred dollars can provide meaningful protection and help you avoid relying on credit cards or high interest loans. This initial milestone can cover many medium-sized emergencies. Once you reach the first milestone, work toward one and a half to two months of expenses, then the full three to six months.

Find money you didn't know you had. Building your emergency fund doesn't always require cutting expenses. If you're employed, set up automatic transfers from your paycheck into a separate savings account. Cancel subscriptions you rarely use, shop around for better insurance rates and take advantage of sales whenever you can.

Consider saving windfalls like tax refunds, work bonuses or birthday money. If your budgeted expenses come in lower than expected — perhaps your health care costs or home maintenance needs were less than anticipated this month — save the

difference in your emergency fund.

Have a dedicated account for your fund. Keep your emergency savings in a separate account from your regular checking, so you're less tempted to use the money for non-emergencies. Choose an account that's easily accessible and without penalties and, while you shouldn't invest emergency money in stocks or bonds, look for an account that earns interest.

Balance competing priorities. Building an emergency fund is important, but it shouldn't come at the expense of other crucial financial goals. If you're carrying high-interest debt or missing out on your employer's retirement contribution matches, address those priorities first, while still building your emergency savings.

Ultimately, you'll want to balance your emergency fund with other goals. To determine an emergency savings target, consider your personal risk for unexpected expenses, your job security and family circumstances. You may need three to six months' worth of savings, or possibly some other amount. If this step feels overwhelming, ask a financial advisor to help you come up with a suitable plan.

The path to financial security requires progress rather than perfection. Begin where you are, use what you have and take one small step at a time. That first \$500 might feel modest, but it represents the freedom to handle whatever life throws your way.

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

**READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS**

**OHIO LOCATIONS**

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

**Cecil:** 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

**Ney:** Marathon

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

**INDIANA LOCATIONS**

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

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

**Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar Exchange, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp 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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## WALLEYE IN RECORD NUMBERS



Photo Credit: Brian Miller

The Annual Walleye Run on the Maumee River started a month early this year and you still can get in on the fun. For the past month everyday fishermen have been getting their limits and returning the next day to have fun and refill their coolers. Last year was good but so far 2026 is looking to be the best Walleye Run in recent history. The rain and high water helped, and the cooler water temperature didn't phase the fish coming into spawn. Ideal temperatures are 40-45 degrees. If you make the trip up, primary fishing spots include Sidecut Metropark and Jerome Road. Fishing is permitted sunrise to sunset, with no snagging allowed. Hooks must be in the mouth. Rules are strictly enforced and the DNR officers watch the area. There's a special Maumee River Walleye section in the Ohio Fishing Rule Book that comes with your fishing license purchase. Read it! The daily limit is six walleye, minimum length 15 inches. Be

aware of no parking signs. Keep up with the latest fishing reports, featuring pictures of lots of happy fishermen and their catches on the Facebook page Maumee River Walleye Run. Brian Miller has done an excellent job putting this page together. He's also outdoor writer and photographer. If you enjoy Walleye fishing, you need to follow his page, Maumee River Walleye Run.

The Sandusky River Walleye run is underway, and prime spots are near Fremont. High water and warmer, muddy conditions have brought fish upriver. If you have a boat, you don't have to go very far offshore. Charter boat captains and private boat owners are all having success. I personally like fishing in the harbor areas off Huron and Vermilion. Good luck if you make the trip up and respect others around you. It can get very congested and everyone needs some space.

Ron Burt ([www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/](http://www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/))

## PAULDING POWERS PAST TINORA BEHIND MENDEZ'S DOMINANT PERFORMANCE

PAULDING — A strong start and a commanding effort in the circle carried Paulding to a 7-0 shutout victory over Tinora in six innings on April 15.

Paulding wasted little time taking control, erupting for four runs in the opening inning and adding another in the second to build an early cushion. The Panthers later tacked on two more runs in the fourth to put the game firmly out of reach.

Tia Mendez led the way both in the circle and at the plate. The Paulding pitcher tossed a complete-game shutout, allowing just five hits while striking out nine and walking two over six innings.

Civil Pumphrey had a standout day offensively, collecting a single, double, and home run while scoring three times and driving in two runs.

Cadence Schwab added two singles with a run and an RBI, while Gracie Leal recorded a single and drove in two runs. Baylor Kilgore chipped in with a single and a run, and Mariah Klopfenstein also added a hit.

Tinora managed five hits in the contest, with Alexia Rios leading the way with two singles. Karly Carpenter, Taylor Spangler, and Christina Meyer each added a hit for Tinora.

Zoe Billings took the loss in the circle for Tinora, allowing seven runs on 11 hits over five innings while striking out two and walking two.

## WAYNE TRACE EDGES TINORA IN HOME RUN-FILLED BATTLE

TINORA — Wayne Trace held off a late push to secure a 6-5 victory over Tinora in a back-and-forth softball contest on April 16.

Tinora struck first with two runs in the opening inning, but Wayne Trace answered quickly, plating three

runs in the second to take the lead. The Raiders added single runs in the fourth and sixth innings, which proved to be just enough to withstand Tinora's offense.

Tinora kept things close behind a powerful showing at the plate from Madison Spangler and Zoe Billings. Spangler blasted two home runs, finishing with three runs scored and two RBIs, while Billings also hit two home runs, driving in three runs and scoring twice. Karly Carpenter added a single, and Nahla Flanary chipped in with a double.

Wayne Trace countered with a balanced offensive effort. Sam Williams led the charge with a single and a home run, scoring twice and driving in a run. Avery Noffsinger contributed a single, a run, and two RBIs, while Brooke Tigner added a single and a double with a run scored. Elly Rickard doubled and drove in a run, Addyson LaBounty had a double, and Alicia Bahena added a single with aBaseball at Fairview - Fairview 12, Antwerp 2n RBI. Raegan McGarvey also recorded a hit, and Olivia Tarlton crossed the plate for a run.

McGarvey earned the win in the circle for Wayne Trace, striking out nine while allowing five runs on seven hits over seven innings. Billings took the loss for Tinora, allowing six runs on nine hits while striking out three.

Tinora scored once in the seventh inning to make things interesting, but Wayne Trace was able to hold on for the narrow win.

## PAULDING POUNDS OUT 16 HITS IN WIN OVER HICKSVILLE

HICKSVILLE — Paulding's offense came alive on April 16, racking up 16 hits in a commanding 12-2 victory over Hicksville.

Paulding jumped out early with two runs in the first inning and steadily built its lead, adding three runs in the fourth and breaking the game open with four more in the fifth. The Panthers continued to apply pressure late, scoring in both the sixth and seventh innings to seal the win.

Colten Hunt led the way on the mound and at the plate. The Paulding ace threw a complete game, allowing just two runs—none earned—on five hits while striking out six. Offensively, he added a single and a double with two runs scored and an RBI.

Paulding's lineup produced contributions up and down the order. Ridge Hunt collected three singles with two runs and an RBI, while Easton Lehman and Jackson Griffith each had two singles, two runs scored, and RBIs. Grady Arend delivered a key double and drove in three runs. Stroker Etter added a single and a double with a run, and Grady Barton contributed a single with a run and an RBI. Wes Grindstaff, Zachary Barton, and Tyler Goyings each chipped in with a hit and a run or RBI.

Hicksville's offense was limited to five hits. Jayden Beverly led the way with two singles and an RBI, while Collin Leavell, Garrett Turnbull, and Cole Yeaser each added a hit. Yeaser recorded the team's lone extra-base hit with a double.

Easton Adams took the loss for Hicksville, allowing five runs over 3 1/3 innings.

## ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD REVIEWS FINANCES, ACADEMIC UPDATES & ANNOUNCES NEW STAFF FOR 2026-27



32 students (28 Antwerp, 4 Fairview) along with 12 chaperones traveled to Spain this Spring with Antwerp's foreign language teacher, Lola Cortes Revuelta.

The Antwerp Board of Education met Thursday, April 16, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the BOE Room

The meeting began with the introduction of guests.

Treasurer Kristine Stuart presented the monthly financial and fiscal year report and reported that the district has received nearly 83% of its projected revenue while spending nearly 67% of its budget with 75% of the fiscal year completed.

MS/HS Principal Jessie Arnold reported that State ELA testing began this week with the state testing in the academic areas of math, science, and social studies taking place in the next two weeks.

Principal Arnold thanked Curriculum Director Elyse Boyer and IT Director Harold Gottke for their leadership with the testing process. Ms. Arnold also shared that the Fine Arts Festival will take place Saturday, April 18th, Senior Awards Night is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th, and that prom is quickly approaching and will take place Saturday, May 2nd. Ms. Arnold also reminded the Board that the band and choir are headed to Disney World May 4th - 9th.

Ms. Arnold also shared that preparations are underway for the May 17th graduation

of 57 senior students.

Elementary Principal Doug Billman began his presentation by recognizing March Students of the Month

- Young 5's: Jensen Swary
- Kindergarten: Daniel Zuber, Owen Treesh, Reid Cross
- 1st Grade: Hadley DeVore, Istm Laker
- 2nd Grade: Waylon Parisot, Evelyn Gaisford, Emma Cross
- 3rd Grade: Coralyn Smith, Riley Henschen, Lukas Custer

- 4th Grade: Kimber Weible, Lyric Smith
- 5th Grade: Deacon Hitzeman, Blade Ruffing, Hudson Martenies

Principal Billman also previewed the upcoming Arts Festival scheduled for April 18th and shared a packed field trip schedule for grades 1 through 5.

In his Superintendent report, Dr. Miller shared some exciting staffing news that two new academic programs and respective teachers are in place for the 2026-2027 school year. Madeline Miesle will serve as a STEAM/CTE teacher and Baylee March will serve as our new Ag Science Teacher. Additionally, Keaton Altimus will return to his Alma Mater for the 2026-2027 school year and will serve as a PE/Health teacher replacing

Marcy Miller with her departure to further her educational endeavors.

Dr. Miller also highlighted several construction items including the athletic booster organization plans to renovate the Field House, and that work will begin in mid-May on the new addition to the bus garage. Dr. Miller also noted several updates regarding school safety enhancements involving an entry/exit management system and alert system that will be available for staff.

Dr. Miller also thanked the board for allowing Dr. Miller, Ms. Arnold, and several staff members (including foreign language teacher Lola Cortes Revuelta and her husband Edwardo - Ohio visiting teachers from Spain) the opportunity to chaperone the student trip to Spain. Thirty-two students (28 Antwerp/4 Fairview) and twelve chaperones (six parents) traveled to Barcelona, Madrid, and Toledo April 2 - 9th and visited numerous historic sites including participation in the Easter Service in the Basilica of Montserrat

Consent Items: See Board Agenda. All items were approved.

The next Board of Education meeting is set for Thursday, May 21st at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

He was followed on the mound by Jayden Beverly and Nolan Inkrott.

## FAIRVIEW RALLIES LATE TO DEFEAT ANTWERP

FAIRVIEW — A big sixth inning powered Fairview to a 12-2 victory over Antwerp in baseball action on April 16.

The game remained relatively close through the early innings, with Fairview holding a 4-0 lead after three. Antwerp broke through in the fourth inning with two runs to cut the deficit in half, but Fairview responded with two runs in the fifth before erupting for six runs in the sixth to put the game away.

Jonah Shininger delivered a dominant performance on the mound for Fairview, striking out 11 and walking none while allowing just two hits and no earned runs over six innings.

Fairview's offense was led by Gavin Palladino, who had a standout day with two singles, a double, and a home run, fin-

ishing with two runs scored and three RBIs. Noah Shininger added two singles and a double with three runs and two RBIs, while Elijah Arend contributed three singles with a run and three RBIs. Hunter Miller chipped in with two singles, a run, and two RBIs.

Logan Olinger and Shady Fritch each added a single and a run, while Josiah Shininger recorded a single with a run and an RBI. Anthony Singer and Calvin Kepler also crossed the plate for Fairview.

Antwerp was limited to just two hits in the game, com-

ing from Michael Rohrs and Gage Clevinger, who each scored a run. Riley Smith drove in a run for the Archers.

Luke Parrett took the loss for Antwerp, allowing eight runs over five innings. Riley Smith came on in relief in the sixth inning.

## ROSSWURM LEADS WAYNE TRACE TO SHUTOUT WIN OVER TINORA

TINORA — A strong pitching performance and timely hitting lifted Wayne Trace to a 2-0 victory over Tinora on April 16.

 **HEAR YE! HEAR YE!**

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# STERRETT DOMINATES AS WAYNE TRACE SHUTS OUT HICKSVILLE



Wayne Trace had a home GMC match with Hicksville. Jon Sterrett was the winning pitcher, pitching 7 innings with 6 strikeouts, letting up 1 hit and 0 runs scored. Photo by Harlee Moore

HAVILAND — A near-flawless outing on the mound by Jonathan Sterrett carried Wayne Trace to a 3-0 shutout victory over Hicksville on April 21.

Wayne Trace took control early, scoring two runs in the first inning despite recording just one hit in the frame. The Raiders added another run in the third to build a 3-0 lead, which proved more than enough behind Sterrett's dominant performance.

Sterrett tossed a complete-game one-hitter, striking out six and walking just one while keeping Hicksville off the scoreboard throughout.

Offensively, Wayne Trace made the most of limited opportunities.

Jack Schoenauer delivered the game's biggest hit with a double that drove in two runs. Ryan Cluts added a single, while Tanner Laukhuf contributed an RBI. Brody Rosswurm and Caden Sinn each crossed the plate in the win.

Hicksville's lone hit came from Eli Lawrence, who recorded a double. Despite allowing only two hits, Hicksville was hurt by four errors in the field, leading to all three Wayne Trace runs being unearned.

Jayden Beverly pitched well in the loss for Hicksville, allowing three unearned runs while striking out two over six innings.

The game remained scoreless through the first three innings before Wayne Trace broke through with a run in the fourth. The Raiders added an insurance run in the sixth, which proved to be all they would need behind a dominant effort on the mound.

Brody Rosswurm went the distance for Wayne Trace, allowing just five hits while striking out six and walking one in a complete-game shutout.

At the plate, Rosswurm helped his own cause with two singles and a run scored. Carter Clemens also recorded two singles and scored a run, while Caden Sinn delivered a key double to drive in a run. Ryan Cluts added a single to ground out the Wayne Trace offense.

Tinora collected five hits in the contest, including a double from Kolton Snyder. Owen Ferrell, Owen Reynolds, Parker Hancock, and Logan Stein each contributed a single.

Stein pitched well in the loss for Tinora, striking out eight and allowing just two runs—only one earned—over seven innings.

Despite a solid outing from their pitcher, Tinora was unable to capitalize offensively, while Wayne Trace made the most of its opportunities to secure the win.

## HICKSVILLE PULLS AWAY FROM ANTWERP IN FIVE-INNING VICTORY

ANTWERP — Hicksville used a big offensive effort to pull away from Antwerp for a 16-4 win in five innings on April 23.

Antwerp came out strong,

# HICKSVILLE BREAKS GAME OPEN LATE TO DEFEAT ANTWERP

ANTWERP — A nine-run fifth inning propelled Hicksville to a 13-1 victory over Antwerp in baseball action on April 23.

The game remained relatively close through the early innings, with Hicksville holding a 4-0 lead heading into the fifth. Antwerp managed to get on the board with a run in the fourth, but Hicksville erupted in the final inning, scoring nine runs to put the game out of reach.

Easton Adams delivered a dominant performance on the mound for Hicksville, striking out 11 while allowing just two hits and one run over five innings.

Hicksville's offense was led by Collin Leavell, who collected three singles while scoring three times and driving in two runs. Jayden Beverly added two singles with two runs and two RBIs, while Garrett Turnbull recorded a single with a run and two RBIs. Cole Yeaser contributed a single with two runs and an RBI, and Jeff Keesbury added a single, a run, and two RBIs.

Deacon Bell and Wyatt Bell each drove in a run, while Eli Lawrence and Paxton Yoder also scored for Hicksville.

Antwerp was limited to just two hits in the contest, with Gage Clevinger and Riley Smith each recording a single. Smith also drove in Antwerp's lone run, while Michael Rohrs scored.

Luke Parrett took the loss for Antwerp, with Riley Smith and Lucas Sproles providing relief on the mound.

# WAYNE TRACE SWEEPS HOME INVITATIONAL; ANTWERP GIRLS FINISH STRONG SECOND

HAVILAND — Wayne Trace claimed both the boys and girls team titles at its home invitational on April 17, with strong performances across the board highlighting a competitive meet.

The Raider boys totaled 98 points to edge Tinora (91), while the girls secured the top spot with 100 points, just ahead of Antwerp's impressive 97-point finish.

On the boys side, Wayne Trace relied on depth and strong relay performances. Achilles Mead placed third in the 1600 meters, while Max Daeger took second in the 3200. Jack Schweller added a third-place finish in pole vault. The Raiders also shined in relays, finishing second in the 4x800, 4x200, and 4x100, while placing third in the 4x400.

Antwerp's boys placed 10th overall but saw solid individual efforts. Corbin Sargent finished fourth in the 1600 and third in the 3200, while Hampton Rogge took third in high jump. Keegan Gray-Wyckoff placed third in both the shot put and discus, and Zaine McMichael added a fifth-place finish in the 300 hurdles and sixth in pole vault.

In the girls competition, Antwerp pushed Wayne Trace to the limit behind a record-setting day from Mia Stoye. Stoye earned meet MVP honors while setting meet records in the 300 hurdles (47.16) and 200-meter dash (26.00). She also helped lead the 4x100 relay team of Kora Zuber, Amelia Graham,

# PJHS FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS



On Saturday, April 18th students and staff from Paulding Junior High School volunteered at the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in Paulding, Ohio. Shown in the picture from left are: Iridessa Reyes, Jack Roddy, Sofi Martinez, and Mrs. Madison Etter (7th Grade Reading Teacher).

Stoye, and Emily Laker to a meet and school record time of 50.81. Stoye also captured first place in the long jump and 300 hurdles.

Antwerp's distance runners also delivered key points, with Reese Durbin winning the 1600 and finishing second in the 800. Gianna Laker placed second in the 3200, while the 4x800 relay team of Durbin, Laker, Emily Laker, and Leigha Doster finished second.

Wayne Trace's girls were led by Kayleigh Dunham, who won the 100 hurdles and added runner-up finishes in the 300 hurdles and high jump. The Raiders also saw contributions from Kyler Foor, who placed fourth in the 800, and relay teams that placed in both the 4x800 (third) and 4x400 (fifth).

Paulding finished fourth in the boys standings and sixth on the girls side, while Hicksville recorded several notable individual performances.

For the Aces, Vincent Van Horn placed third in the 400, Zane Trzynka took second in the 110 hurdles, and Mya Haggerty earned third-place finishes in both the 100 and 200 on the girls side. McKenna Bergman added a third-place finish in the high jump.

With multiple personal records, meet records, and tightly contested team scores, the Wayne Trace invitational showcased some of the area's top track and field talent early in the season.

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# THE LEFT TURN



Kody Swanson wins at Anderson Speedway. Photo credit Rick Kimba.

By: Ron Burt

April 19th the 500 Sprint Car Tour (Asphalt) opened the season at Anderson Speedway in Indiana. Doran Racing got its 2026 season off to an extremely successful start when the Lebanon, Ohio-based team's Kody Swanson led all 100 laps of the 26th annual Glen Niebel Classic. It was the fourth victory in the Glen Niebel Classic for Swanson. The two-time series champion also won this race in 2018, 2021, and 2024.

Swanson topped both practice sessions but then qualified third behind Dakota Armstrong and Tyler Roahrig. The invert went Swanson's way, however, and he started on the pole with Armstrong alongside him. Unfortunately for Armstrong the defending series champion and the defending race winner. He was in second working lap four when his car's right-front wheel flew off, sending him hard into the outside wall in Turn 4 with three laps down. Armstrong's departure put Bischak into second place, which he held until Roahrig passed him on lap 52 enroute to the runner-up honors. At the end of the 100 laps, it was Swanson by 2.4-seconds over Roahrig with Bettis, Santos and Macenko rounding out the top five. All these drivers will return for the 78th Annual Little 500, May 23rd.

Saturday, April 11th was opening night at Attica Race-

way Park, and it was opening night for the All-Star Circuit of Champions 410 Winged Outlaw Sprint Series. The speedway is one of the best in the country, but the past 4 weeks of weather took its toll. The different passing lanes weren't there and there was a lot of single file racing. Attica Raceway Park 2025 Track Champion Cap Henry won the feature and took home the \$7,500.00 winner's purse. On the podium with Cap, 2nd Bryce Lucius and Tim Shaffer. Trey Jacobs won the B Feature. The 305 Winged Sprints were the support class. Brenden Torok won the Feature followed by Kasey Ziebold and Seth Schneider.

The Great Lakes Super Sprints opened their season with the North vs South Shootout at the red clay, 3/8th mile oval, I-75 Raceway in Niota, TN. The GLSS and USCS battled Friday, April 10th and Saturday, April 11th. Friday's Sprint Feature was won by Defending Hoosier Race Tire USCS Outlaw Thunder National Champion, Dale Howard from Byhalia, MS. Ohio's Kelsey Ivey was the runner-up followed by Canadian Ryan Turner in third place. 16-time USCS NATIONAL Champion Terry Gray from Bartlett, TN and Corbin Gurley from Hebron, Indiana completed the top five.

Saturday, April 11th, Devon Dobie was able to stay out

front as a battle raged behind him. Chase Dunham from Leipsic took 2nd, Dale Howard 3rd and Ryan Turner made the trip from Dunnville Ontario was 4th and Jac Nickles rounded out the top 5.

April 11th, congrats to Rusty Schlenk for winning the Saturday night Northern All-stars UMP DIRT Late Model Series Feature at Montpelier Speedway IN at the opening night Breakout Bash. UMP DIRT Late Model drivers from 4 states made the trip. It wasn't easy and came down to the final 5 laps. Schlenk and Jason Jameson had 7 lead exchanges with Schlenk taking control on the final lap. Rounding out the top 5 Chad Finley, Devin Shiels and Dona Marcoullier. Randy Petro won the Super Stock A-Main, and Derek Losh won the UMP Modified Feature.

Kevin & Brandy Sauer made the announcement Tuesday, April 14th, they have a strategy that will allow more time with their family, while phasing out their track ownership. With all parties in agreement, Plymouth Motor Speedway and South Bend Motor Speedway are now for sale and the plan is to bring in new ownership and to help them during this transition. The 2026 and 2027 seasons will go on as scheduled. The speedway will keep providing great entertainment and racing shows. Watch for track updates on Plymouth Speedways Facebook page. Plymouth Speedway is 30 miles west of Fort Wayne on US 30.

Ron Burt (www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

## LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

### Weed & Feed Products

Warmer weather is finally here to stay. The time has come to feed your lawn for the first time if you haven't already done that. You can also get rid of those pesky weeds at the same time. In this article, I'll give you some information about perennial weeds, picking a good weed & feed, and application tips to make your chosen product more effective.

Perennial weeds, such as dandelion, plantain and clover, are present in the lawn all year long. In winter, the plants may wither and disappear, but their root systems are still alive and well. These noxious roots are lurking beneath the surface of your lawn, and waiting for warm spring weather to reappear as eyesores in the lawn. When warm weather (finally) arrives, new leaves begin to grow, and begin their "crowding out" tactics to take over the lawn. Summer annual weeds, such as chickweed, oxalis, spurge and purslane also begin to invade.

Control of these pesky weeds is done by applying a post-emergent weed control. Unlike digging or pulling weeds, weed controls get rid of weeds from the roots to help ensure the weeds cannot grow back from root stubs that may be left in the soil. This is not accomplished overnight. Instead, the weeds slowly disappear over a period of a few weeks as the weed control kills the roots. Weed controls come in both liquid and granular form. Whether liquid or granular, the weed control needs to have an opportunity to adhere to the leaves of the plant in order to be effective because the ingredients enter

the weed primarily through the surface of the leaves.

For those who prefer a non-granular, fertilizer free post-emergent control for treating small areas, liquid controls provide an ideal option. Some are water-proof in an hour(s). The ready-to-use and concentrate versions are effective for treating a host of broadleaf weeds without harming the lawn. Because the weed control is already in a liquid form, it adheres to the plant and absorbs into the weed more quickly than the granular versions.

The granular forms of the weed controls are typically combined with a grass fertilizer to feed your lawn—hence the name weed & feed. All granular applications should be made on a damp lawn in order to help the weed control adhere to the weed plant. Application after a light rainfall or early morning dew is ideal. Additionally if it's possible, apply the granular weed & feed to a freshly cut lawn. If within 24 hours of mowing, it will help the granules of nutrients and weed control absorb in the fresh cuts on grass and weeds alike. After application, avoid foot traffic on the lawn and hope the weatherman was right in predicting no rainstorms from 24 to 48 hours. The heavy rain and foot traffic with the 24 to 48 hour window could dislodge the granules and make the weed control less effective.

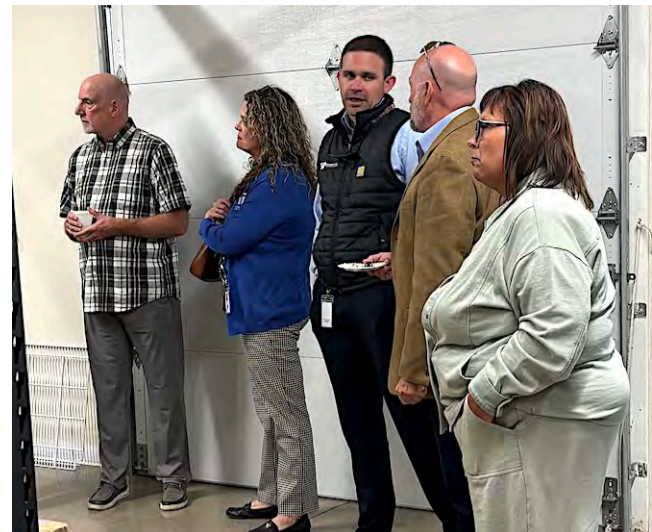
The timing of post-emergent weed control application is important if the lawn is to get the maximum benefit from the product. As a general rule, the application should be made when the weeds are actively growing. Application for the most northern part of the U.S. is recommended in mid- to late-spring. For our area this means an application should be made sometime in late April or early May when air temperatures are between 60-90 degrees F. Another time for applying weed controls is in the early fall. From mid-September to early October, weeds are actively growing. Weeds are susceptible to the weed controls in the fall because they are naturally translocating nutrients to their roots in preparation for winter dormancy.

Make sure to space out your feedings. You need a period of at least 6 to 8 weeks between feedings. Otherwise you maybe overfeeding your lawn causing you to mow your lawn more often. If you have broadleaf weeds coming up and you have recently fed your lawn, use a granular or liquid weed control that doesn't have fertilizer to get rid of those eyesores.

The only times weed controls should not be used is on newly planted grass. Once that new grass has had time to grow and has been mowed at least four regularly spaced mowings (approximately 20+ days), then you can apply a weed control to the newly seeded area. If you've already applied weed control but need to over seed, it is best to wait one month after your last application. Whether liquid or granular, using a weed control will help ensure your lawn stays weed free in the warmer weather to come!

—Len Schrock  
Jonathan Green Lawn Consultant  
Grabill & Woodburn Hardware

## KIWANIS MEMBERS TOUR CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY, LEARN ABOUT COMMUNITY IMPACT



This week, members of the Kiwanis Club were invited to tour the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry, gaining first-hand insight into the organization's work supporting individuals and families in need.

Laurie Barnes, a board member of Caring & Sharing, provided an informative overview of the pantry's services,

the sources of donations, and anticipated future needs in the community. Members also toured the facility, witnessing the operations that make this essential service possible.

For more information about the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry or how to get involved, visit their website or Facebook page.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN MAY

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is excited for our spring events. The library will be closed on Monday, May 25th in honor of Memorial Day. Summer Reading Program will be starting June 1st with early registration starting May 26th. Get signed up and let's read!!!

### MAIN:

The Adult section will have Monday Crafts on May 4 and 11.

May 7th at 5:30-6:30 p.m., Join Sarah Hoggie for her Monthly Horticulture and Natural Resources Hot Topics series.

Black Swamp Bookworms are reading "Margo's Got Money Troubles" by Rufi Thorpe, they will meet on May 12th at 5:30 p.m.

Adult Bingo Luncheon is Monday, May 18th at 11:00 a.m. Meat and drinks provided, bring a side dish.

Coffee Talk is every Thursday at 1:00 p.m.

"Celebrate Mom's" May 4-9, every mom that visits the library that week can be entered into a Giveaway.

Amazon Box giveaway, stop in all month and sign up to enter to win an Amazon mystery box. Drawing will be May 30.

The Children's room is continuing Storytime, Wednesday at 11:00 a.m., don't miss it.

Movie night is back on

Thursday, May 7th at 5:00 p.m., we will be viewing "Zootopia 2", snacks provided.

Mom craft all week May 4-8. Make a potholder for mom. While supplies last.

Mom and Me time, Saturday May 9th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., while supplies last. Make a painted tea towel with Mom. Registration is preferred, or stop in. Enjoy a craft, snack and just spending time with Mom.

Register May 26 to May 30 for Summer Reading Program and get entered into a drawing for 4 Kings Island tickets to use this summer.

### ANTWERP:

The Antwerp Branch will have Story Time on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., with a Special Mother's Day Story Time May 6th with a Make and Take craft for MOM.

Book Club is May 11th at 6:00 p.m.

Cookbook Club is May 18th at 5:45 p.m.

Game Night is May 21st 5:00-6:00 p.m. Bring your family into the library for a night of Fun and Games.

Beeswax Wrap is May 26th at 3:00 p.m. Call 419-258-2855 to register.

### GROVER HILL:

The Grover Hill Branch will have Munchkin storytime on Friday, May 15th and May 29th at 10:30 a.m. Storytimes are designed for 6 and under with a story, activity and snack.

Senior Bingo is May 14th at 1:00 p.m., this event is cur-

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currently booked, call for any cancellations.

Book Club meets on May 27th at 4:00 p.m. The discussion of the young adult novel "We Are Not Free" by Traci Chee should provide some insight not only on Asian American and Pacific Islander Month, but also what it's historically been like to be seen as different in America. Multiple copies and formats ready to check out.

Saturday May 30th the winner of the monthly prize basket will be drawn at 1:00 p.m.

**OAKWOOD:**

The Oakwood branch will be having Camping Bingo on May 2nd at 11:00 a.m., for ages 5-12.

May 9th - Library Tea and Vendor Sale (call 419-438-1159 for tickets)

May 11th at 5:00 p.m. is Teen Sugar Scrub, call 419-594-3337 to sign up.

May 12th Facebook Riddle

May 14 at 11:30 a.m., is Senior Bingo Luncheon

May 14th at 5:00 p.m. is Mrs. Roper's Event

May 16th at 11:00 a.m.: Children's Story time

May 22nd at 5:30 p.m. is Cookbook Club (Fruit Theme)

May 23rd at 11:00 a.m. All-Natural Sunscreen Workshop (call to sign up 410-594-3337)

May 26th at 11:00 a.m., Quilt Block Month (stop in for fabric info)

**PAYNE:**

The Payne Branch Story times are Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m., join us for a story and craft with your friends.

Freida McFadden Facebook Giveaway Contest. Watch for our Facebook post

for a chance to win the full "Housemaid" series.

Muffins with Mom, Saturday morning, May 9th at 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Bring mom, grandma or mom figure in your life and enjoy a morning of fun.

May 4-9, Mother's Day Craft for kids during library hours.

**VANTAGE CAREER CENTER PRACTICAL NURSING PROGRAM CREATES PATHWAY INTO IN-DEMAND HEALTHCARE CAREERS**

If you've been thinking about a career in healthcare, Vantage Career Center offers a fast and affordable way to get started.

Through Vantage Adult Education, the Practical Nursing program gives students the opportunity to train for a rewarding career in as little as 11 months. The program combines classroom learning, hands-on lab experience, and clinical training in real healthcare settings, helping students build the skills and confidence needed to succeed.

Graduates are prepared to take the NCLEX-PN licensure exam and begin careers as Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs). LPNs are in demand in hospitals, nursing homes, doctor's offices, clinics, and other healthcare facilities.

For those who need a schedule with more flexibility, Vantage also offers a 22-month Practical Nursing Prep option. This pathway is ideal for students balancing work, family, or other responsibilities while working toward a future in nursing.

The next 11-month Practical Nursing class begins

September 8, 2026. Enrollment requirements must be completed by July 31, 2026, and accepted students will attend a mandatory orientation on August 17, 2026.

For more information, contact Vantage Career Center Adult Education at 419-238-5411 (press 2) or visit the Vantage Career Center Adult Education page.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SUCCESSFUL**

On April 16 the Red Cross came to Hicksville for their most recent blood collection. Drive coordinator and Red Cross Ambassador Zeldia Zimmerman expressed her gratitude for everyone who participated and donated the forty-five units of usable blood.

Held at The First Church of Christ, the drive was supported by members of the Rotary Club who assisted with setup and teardown. Rotary also footed the bill for sandwich ingredients. Alice Breidenbaugh, Marilyn Guilford and Sara Green prepared food for the cañteen, with cookies provided by Grace Methodist Church. Registration was done by Connie Adams and Colleen Richter.

As always, blood is urgently needed! Please donate! Make an appointment for the next blood drive, which will be held on June 11th in Hicksville, from 1 - 6 pm. Sign up online at red-crossblood.org.

Give the gift of life to someone who desperately needs it. Remember that blood can only come from one place - and that is YOU!!!

"Spring Fling is a great opportunity to bring the community together and showcase everything that makes Bryan special," said Erica Noggle, Executive Director, Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce. "We are excited to support our local businesses and vendors while creating a fun, welcoming atmosphere for everyone to enjoy."

The event will take place around the Courthouse Square, providing a vibrant and walkable setting for guests to explore vendor booths, connect with local organizations, and experience the infectious energy of downtown Bryan.

Spring Fling is free to attend and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to mark their calendars and join in the celebration.

For more information about Spring Fling, including vendor opportunities and event updates, please contact the Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce at 419-636-2247 or visit www.bryanchamber.org/spring-fling.

**SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD**

*A Powerful Musical Celebrating the Human Experience*

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is thrilled to announce its upcoming production of Songs for a New World, a stirring musical that promises to move audiences with its soaring melodies and deeply resonant storytelling. Performances are scheduled for May 8-10 and 15-17, 2026.

Songs for a New World weaves together powerful stories of individuals at life's pivotal crossroads.

This musical explores the emotional connections we forge in moments of change and uncertainty.

Each song is a vivid snapshot of human experience, from heartbreak to hope. Prepare to be moved by its soaring melodies and the universal themes of growth and resilience.

For more information about this show, visit vwct.org or call the box office at (419) 238-9689

**Performance Schedule** will be May 8-10 and May 15-17, 2026 (Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.)

The production features a talented ensemble of local performers: Amanda Block, Kristin Lee, Virgo Lee, Nancy Shuffle, Laura Wells, Alyssa Wells, Nick Long, and Sean Carpenter.

The Van Wert Civic Theatre looks forward to bringing this unforgettable musical experience to our community. Don't miss your chance to witness these powerful stories come to life on stage.

**SPRING FLING RETURNS TO DOWNTOWN BRYAN**

Bryan, OH - The Bryan Area Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the return of Spring Fling, taking place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 10am-3pm on the Courthouse

Square in downtown Bryan. This annual community celebration welcomes residents and visitors alike for a day of shopping, entertainment, and family friendly fun.

Spring Fling will feature a wide variety of local vendors, offering everything from handmade goods and boutique items to delicious food and treats. Attendees can enjoy live music from D Squared from noon to 3:00 PM so bring a lawn chair and stay a while. The Chamber also encourages attendees to explore and support our local businesses throughout Bryan for shopping and dining in addition to visiting event vendors.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Hicksville Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on several applications for variance on the 6th day of May 2026 at 6pm at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The application submitted Jules Pinchinat for his residence at 400 S. Bryan St. Jules is requesting the permit to be able to have a clothing / general merchandise business from his residence.

The application submitted by Mitchell Bok for conditional use for his property at 321 E. Cornelia St. Mitch is requesting the permit to be able to run his tree trimming / rental business.

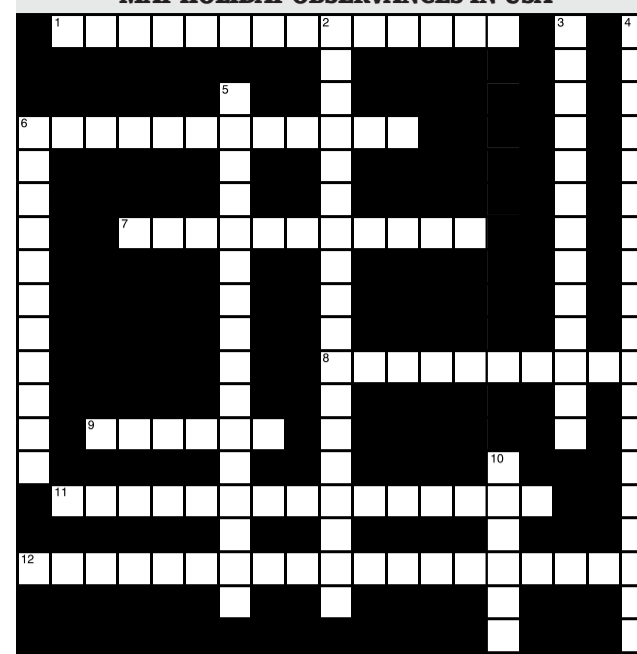
The application submitted by Justin Kuhn is in reference to parcels E06-0018-0-005-00 & E06-0018-0-005-02, these parcels are behind Casa. Justin would like lot size variances to accommodate this development.

The application submitted by Justin Kuhn is in reference to the parcel E06-0027-0-042-00 (PID: 20398), the old KADUK Farm. Justin would like different variances to accommodate the subdivision he is wanting to develop with this property.

—Brian Demland, Zoning Official, Village of Hicksville

**WEST BEND NEWS Crossword Puzzle**

**MAY HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES IN USA**



- Across**
1. Celebrated May 6<sup>th</sup> to honor nurses.
  6. Promotes cycling for health and transportation.
  7. Federal holiday honoring fallen military personnel, observed on the last Monday in May.
  8. Also on May 1, promoting patriotism and loyalty to the U.S.
  9. Celebrated on May 1st, traditionally involving flowers and spring festivals.
  11. Observed May 25 to celebrate wine appreciation.
  12. Encourages youth entrepreneurship, typically held in May.
- Down**
2. Honors law enforcement officers, especially those who died in service.
  3. Honoring mothers, observed on the second Sunday in May.
  4. Observed on the first Thursday in May.
  5. Celebrates railroad history and travel, often in May.
  6. Encourages responsible pet ownership and care.
  10. Observed May 1 to celebrate the rule of law in the U.S.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879  
Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813  
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873  
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

**VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE WEED ORDINANCE NOTICE**

As established by Chapter 905 of the Village Ordinances, it is hereby determined that weeds or grass growing at a height of eight (8) inches or higher after the first day of May of each year are a public nuisance. All property owners are required to regularly cut the weeds and grass on their properties during the ensuing months of the year. Failure to do so could result in a property tax assessment if the Village of Hicksville has to clear the property of high weeds or grass. Mowing grass clippings into the street is prohibited.

Whoever violates any provision of this chapter is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. A separate offense shall be deemed committed each day on which a violation occurs or continues.

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME**

PROBATE COURT OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO  
HARVEY D. HYMAN, JUDGE  
IN RE: Change of Name of ALEXANDER MATTHEW DUNHAM (Present Name) to ALEXANDER MATTHEW MANELLA (Name Requested)  
Case No. 20266004

**NOTICE OF HEARING ON CHANGE OF NAME [R.C. 2717.08 AND 2717.14]**

Applicant gives notice that the Applicant has filed an Application for Change of Name in this Court requesting the change of name of ALEXANDER MATTHEW DUNHAM to ALEXANDER MATTHEW MANELLA.

A hearing on the Application will be held on the 27th day of MAY, 2026, at 10:00 o'clock A.M. in the Probate Court of Paulding County, located at 115 N. Williams St., Suite 202, Paulding, Ohio 45879.

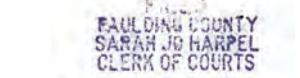
*Alex Dunham*  
Applicant's Signature  
ALEXANDER MATTHEW DUNHAM  
Typed or Printed Name  
622 ERIE STREET  
Address  
ANTWERP OH 45813  
City State Zip  
ALEXANDERM80@GMAIL.COM  
Email Address

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION**

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO  
TIFFANY M SANCHEZ RUIZ, PLAINTIFF  
VS.  
ALFREDO SANCHEZ RUIZ  
LKA: UNKNOWN DEFENDANT,  
Case No. Cl-26-084

**To: Alfredo Sanchez Ruiz**  
You are hereby notified that you have been named as a Defendant in a Complaint for Divorce filed in Paulding County Common Pleas Court entitled Tiffany M Sancez Ruiz, Plaintiff vs. Alfredo Sanchez Ruiz, Defendant.

The object of the Complaint is for the Plaintiff to be granted an absolute divorce, an equitable division of property and debts, costs of this suit, and for such other and further relief as the Court may find just and equitable under the



2026 APR 21 PM 3:47

circumstances.  
You are required to answer the complaint within 28 days after the last date of publication of this Notice, which will be published once a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, the date of the last publication will be on June 1, 2026 and the 28 days for answer will commence on that date.  
If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time stated, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

—Sarah Jo Harpel, Clerk  
Common Pleas Court of Paulding County, Ohio.  
*Sarah Jo Harpel*  
Clerk

**PUBLIC MEETING Proposed STEAM Center**

The Wayne Trace Board of Education would like to invite the Public to an open meeting to answer any questions concerning the new STEAM Center that the Wayne Trace Local School District will be adding on to our High School.



The meeting will take place in the Lecture Hall at the Wayne Trace High School, 4915 U.S. Route 127, Haviland, OH 45851 @ 6:00 PM on Wednesday, April 29th, 2026.

**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. Cl-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. Cl 26 053, alleging that there is due to the Plaintiff the sum of \$75,622.67, plus interest at 4.750% per annum from June 01, 2025, plus late charges and fees applicable to the terms of a



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*  
Brian S. Jackson, 0068314  
Crystal L. Saresky, 0091328  
Brandon W. Ellis, 0099077  
Austin R. Decker, 0100918  
Christina R. Griffith, 0102095  
Alexander D. Weisser, 0103287  
Robertson, Anschutz, Schneider, Crane & Partners, PLLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
2400 Chamber Center Dr. Suite 220  
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017  
Telephone: 476-321-7112 / Facsimile: 833-310-1332  
Email: kywhfilings@trnsjg.com

**DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS \$2,000 GRANT TO CONQUER CHILDHOOD CANCER NOW**



**Congratulations to Conquer Childhood Cancer Now (CCCN) for receiving a \$2,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 for their annual fundraiser. Pictured with the check are (L to R) Kelsey Slattman - CCCN Secretary and Stacy McCartney - Moose Lodge Administrator.**

**PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS**

**Criminal/Traffic  
Disposition Report**

**Miranda L. Bussing** of Paulding, Ohio, had charges of criminal trespass and resisting arrest dismissed per the state without prejudice. Court costs of \$197 were assessed to the state.

**Taylor A. Watson** of Payne, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. Watson was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Watson was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from April 15, 2026, through April 15, 2027. Special conditions include the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail. Related charges of failure to control and a seat belt violation were dismissed.

**Miranda A. Castill** of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of failure to confine a dog. She was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$132 in court costs. Castill was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, completion of 40 hours of community service (which may be paid in the amount of \$440 and donated to the Paulding Dog Kennel), and payment of \$15 in restitution.

**Timothy D. Blackmore** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$575 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Blackmore was sentenced to 180 days in jail,

with 177 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from February 9, 2026, through February 9, 2027. Special conditions include the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail, proof of insurance provided, vacation of the administrative license suspension, forfeiture of all contraband to be destroyed or put to lawful use, and an agreement by the State of Ohio not to bring additional charges related to a firearm.

**Randin S. Gross** of Churubusco, 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.

**Doug T. Stelzer** of Montezuma, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Janko Kmezic** of New Westminster, British Columbia, was convicted of a marked lanes violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Charles T. Knapp** of Oakwood, Ohio, had a charge of obstructing dismissed. In a related case, Knapp was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$309 in court costs. Knapp was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Travis R. Eccard** of Oakwood, Ohio, had a charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension dismissed after proof of insurance was provided.

ance was provided.

**Zachery N. Davis** of Napoleon, Ohio, was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Ryan Hurley** of Paulding, Ohio, 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. Special conditions include showing proof of insurance by April 23, 2026. In a related case, Hurley was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Timothy R. Franklin** of Payne, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Ean R. Seibert** of Oakwood, Ohio, had a charge of telecommunications harassment dismissed with prejudice, with court costs waived.

**Jason R. Rupp** of Payne, Ohio, had a charge of endangering children dismissed with prejudice, with court costs waived.

**Xaden E. Franklin** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of riot and assault. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$431 in court costs. Franklin was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 173 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement on standard probation, no contact with the victim, completion of 20 hours of community service, completion of online classes, a risk assessment, maintaining general good behavior, and jail days to be served concurrently.

**Orman E. Goings II** of Latty, Ohio, was convicted of driving under suspension related to failure to reinstate. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include release from jail the same day.

**Danny Rigenbach Jr.** of Toledo, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of reckless operation. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Kaleb M. Soukup** of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of improper overtaking and passing. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**George M. Gibson** of Paulding, 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.

**Devon M. Snyder** of Payne, Ohio, 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.

**Jose L. Tijerina** of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Jonathon C. Werling** of Decatur, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Stacy L. Stickan** of Napoleon, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Raymond P. Voss** of Liberty Center, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Zachary L. Zeedyk** of Hicksville, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct with persistence. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$146 in court costs. Zeedyk was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, additional probation rules, completion of 10 hours of community service, completion of online classes, a risk assessment, and an agreement by the state not to file a probation violation.

**Krystal M. Fuentes** of Cecil, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to confine a dog. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$181 in court costs. Fuentes was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior. She also had a second count of failure to confine a dog which she entered a no contest plea and was convicted. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Fuentes was sentenced to 30 days in jail, all of which were suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Kayson L. Ross** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$116 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Jason C. Ross** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$216 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Ronald R. Chelecki** of Fredonia, New York was convicted of permit violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Mahamat A. Soumaine** of Fort Wayne, Indidan was convicted of highway use tax violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Darcy M. Shepherd** of Edon, Ohio was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court cost. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Vantage Career Center Recognizes Third Nine Weeks Honor Roll Students 2025-26**

Vantage Career Center is proud to recognize our students who have earned placement on the AB Honor Roll for the 3rd Nine Weeks. This achievement reflects a strong commitment to academic excellence, focus, and determination across all of our partner schools.

Students marked with an asterisk (\*) have earned a perfect 4.0 GPA, demonstrating an exceptional level of dedica-

**EVANSFORT VETERANS FIREWORKS ASSOCIATION AWARDED GRANT FOR 4<sup>th</sup> OF JULY CELEBRATION**



**Pictured with the grant are Cat Salisbury - Evansport Veterans Fireworks Association Secretary/Treasurer and Stacy McCartney - Moose Lodge Administrator.**

Congratulations to the Evansport Veterans Fireworks Association for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094, who holds a donor advised

fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella.

This grant will be used for the community fireworks taking place this Fourth of July season.

tion to their studies.

We commend each of these students for their hard work both in the classroom and in their career-technical labs. Their efforts continue to set a high standard and represent the excellence of Vantage Career Center.

**ANTWERP:**

**Juniors** - \*Hailey Clem, Avalon Coney, Madeline Cossel, Aliyah Friend, Maddox Friend, \*Kara Pierce, Madison Schmidt

**Seniors** - Zander Bailey, \*Nik Brandenburg, Zaybriel King-Bauer, \*Griffin Kosch, Dominic Laker, Caleb Lockhart, Brendon Osborn, Colten Sargent, \*Corbin Sargent, Alexander Stevenson

**CONTINENTAL:**

**Juniors** - \*Laney Nienberg, Grant Siefer, Alexis Wannemacher

**Seniors** - \*Rhettik Bowers, \*Cole English, Haiven Harsh, \*Lily Lamond, \*Gavin Panigagua, Allison Seibert, \*Brady Thomsen

**CRESTVIEW:**

**Juniors** - Sydney Bible, Kaden Gause, \*Gwyneth Kahle, Cole Miller, Evan Myers, Nora Myers, Jaymie Quickstad, Kaydacen Rodriguez, Kenadi Short, \*Tory Singer, Kale Vining

**Seniors** - Jazmyn Ashford, Josselyn Fuller, Serenity Hunter, Trevor Lirot, \*Cora Meyer, \*Eliza Reinhart, \*Lincoln Smith

**DELPHOS JEFFERSON:**

**Juniors** - Karleigh Austin, \*Isabela Basinger, Mia Caputo, Lexie Cheney, Kyrsten Haehn, Garrett Lee, Nephtalie Miller, Jaxon Rahrig, Keira Ray, Haylie Sherman, \*William Taggi, Jacob Trentman, Brielle Wright

**Seniors** - \*Hailey Acheson, Zackery Brown, Amanda Decker, \*Alex Groch, Caydence Henry, Logan Miller, Leyton Parent, Melody Richards, \*Layla Toy, Robert Vandyke, \*Dylan Wreede

**DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S:**

**Juniors** - Zachary Bockey,

Leah DeVelvis, Lillian Schner Seniors - \*Lydia Etkorn, Jackson Hoersten, Grady Holdgreve, Kaylee Schnipke, Brennan Suever, Drew Ulm, Riley Wenzlick

**FORT JENNINGS:**

**Juniors** - Khloe Browning, Angelina Gilbert, Mallory Jacomet, Ryan Kahle, \*Ava Knippen, Gaige Miller, Karder Miller, Lilly Schaefer, Sophia Schaefer, Grace Welch

**Seniors** - \*Ryan Aldrich, \*Rayne Burgei, \*Landon Calvelage, Nathan Calvelage, \*Chase German, Bailey Hile, \*Kailey Meyer, Dylan Schaefer, James Schroeder, Reilly Stegaman, \*Brooklyn Stone

**KALIDA:**

**Juniors** - Lexie Brinkman, \*Emily Burgei, Jenna Hanne-man, Cooper Horstman, \*Oliver Kahle, \*Carson Price, Ruby Vandercook

**Seniors** - \*JASON Luersman, \*Annelise Price

**LINCOLNVIEW:**

**Juniors** - \*Moriah Bertsch, Corbin Blockberger, Sophia Brickner, \*Wyatt Burkhardt, \*Tyler Eddy, Zayden Harter, Finn Kemler, Brogan Pardon, \*Gavin Priest, Natalie Quintero, Emerson Renner, Kelsey Vanclave, \*Yaddo Von Stetina, Keegan Welker, Austin Welling

**Seniors** - Zion Bertsch, Krista Corzine, Aiden Cowdric, Zaria Harter, \*Braeden Hire, Kale Kundert, Owen Long, Steven Parsons, Maddisyn Pescosolido, Wyatt Polley, \*Macie Pugh, Grace Schaad, Paige Smith, Townsend Wilkinson, Casey Young

**MILLER CITY:**

**Seniors** - Taten Long

**OTTAWA-GLANDORF:**

**Seniors** - \*Mitchell Moening

**OTTOVILLE:**

**Juniors** - \*Isaac Brinkman, Liam Druckemiller, Riley Geise, Elijah Hoersten, \*Logan Koester, Ava Martz, \*Landon Saxton, Eliza Scheblo, \*Carson Turnwald

**Seniors** - Abigail Bullinger,

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**Pictured: Dr. Shaun Mataka and Kiwanis member, Dave Burtch**

**DR. SHAUN MATAKO SPEAKS TO KIWANIS**

This week, the Kiwanis Club welcomed community members to attend a special meeting focused on outreach and engagement. The featured speaker, Dr. Shaun Mataka—former Paulding Kiwanis Club member and now pastor at

Whipple Avenue Baptist Church in Canton, Ohio—shared the history, purpose, and impact of Kiwanis.

Dr. Mataka spoke about the organization's ongoing commitment to serving children and strengthening communities through service, leadership, and volunteerism. His remarks highlighted the meaningful ways Kiwanis continues to make a difference locally and around the world.

Community members in attendance had the opportunity to learn more about the organization and how they can get involved. The Kiwanis Club welcomes anyone interested in making a positive impact to attend an upcoming meeting and explore membership opportunities.

Changing the world one child at a time.

For more information, please visit the organization's Facebook page.

\*Bela Fiedler, Luke Hoffman, \*Zachary Hohlbein, Cruse Schroeder, \*Logan Sheets

**PARKWAY:**

Juniors - Morgan Bentz, Dylan Bollenbacher, Oliver Haines, Kelsie Kellermeyer, Mackenzie Miller, Tyler Rutledge, Arwen Williams, \*Torbin Winters

Seniors - Tara Brown, \*Logan Butler, Troy Miller, Donovan Richardson-Norris

**PAULDING:**

Juniors - \*Braylon Barnes, Domanick Bullinger, \*Lexie Hankinson

Seniors - Destiny Brooks, Kristin Frederick, Katelynn Gerbers, Tyler Hankinson, \*Damien Iliff, \*Brooklyn King, \*Layla Kremer, Clayton Manz, Abigail Panches, Luke Ray, Logan Winke, Kiera Youtsey, Adan Zacarias

**VAN WERT:**

Juniors - Harper Cramer, Amaya Dowdy, Zarik Hall, Devin Hensley, Kenten Hill, Makayla Kraner, Jaydon Lamb, Aaliyah Leal, \*Brayden Miller, Sophie Miller, Carter Soltis, Zander Stemen, Elijah Wofford, Gavin Zartman

Seniors - Kierra Alvarado, Breese Bollenbacher, Katie Bradley, Phillip Burk, Mackenzie Couch, \*Levyn Grams, Dominik Johnson, \*Jaelynn Karcher, \*Landon Nagel, Ryley Rohrbacher, Lottie Shartzter, Gavin Springer, Summer Sprowl, William Stickney, \*Hannah Vetter, Addison Wallace

**WAYNE TRACE:**

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

Seniors - Tyler Blankenship, William Burgei, \*Caleb Cox, Audrey Dougal, \*Ethan

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH BASEMENT LADIES**

**GARAGE SALE**

Sat. May 9th • 8am - 3pm

**A LARGE VARIETY OF ITEMS FOR SALE!**

All items have been donated & all proceeds will go to benefit the chu ch. Lunch will be served with carry outs available.

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH 4412 PARK STREET - WOODBURN**

**Classified Ads**

**Sell it in the Classifieds!**

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

**Bold is \$1.00 additional.**

Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813

**Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

**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**

**MOWER LIFT FOR SALE:** Huskee HZR350 Lift for riding or zero turn lawn mower. \$65obo. Call 419-258-0127

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

**DESIGN-PRINT-ADVERTISE:** West Bend Printing & Publishing can get you what you need **FAST!** Call or stop in today! 419-258-2000.

**FOR SALE:** Ford 2000 tractor \$2500; 5x12 metal covered trailer, new 14-inch tires, \$1000; Self-propelled mowers - Ariens bagger \$140, Craftsman \$100, tuned up, ready to go; (3) 36 inch oak doors, finished, \$150 each; 4 pickup tires 45x70x16, \$100; Red Cross composter, \$100; Husqvarna 16 or 18 in., \$100; 1 ton chain hoist, \$90; Good woodburners. 419-551-8834 17-18p

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

**2004 HONDA GOLDWING 1800cc. 37,000 miles.** Touring trailer, leathers, intercom, everything works, excellent shape. Never laid down. \$6500 obo. 419-769-0759 17-18p

250-Ohio, the official state commission responsible for spearheading Ohio's celebrations and commemorations around America's Semiquincentennial in 2026.

The Heritage Trees program officially kicked off in Lima, on Arbor Day 2025 (April 25, 2025), and will ensure the planting of a commemorative tree in communities across the state.

Started in 2025 and continuing throughout 2026, Heritage Trees will be planted in all 88 of Ohio's counties. In Paulding County, the tree will be planted at the Paulding County Courthouse lawn on Wednesday, April 29th, at 9:00AM. County Commissioners, Officers from the Paulding FFA Chapter, and Paulding Soil and Water representatives, among others, will be present for the ceremony. The Paulding County Courthouse was chosen as the site for the Heritage Tree because of the current courthouse construction was complete in 1888, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and is in the center of the County.

The Heritage Trees initiative draws inspiration from the historic Liberty Tree in Boston during the Revolutionary War period. The Heritage Trees program aims to commemorate America's 250th anniversary by planting native-to-Ohio white oak trees across the state.

Throughout the celebration, America 250-Ohio will offer each Ohio county a white oak tree in honor of America's 250th birthday.

Paulding County Commissioner, Mike Weible said "This Heritage 250 oak tree is more than something we

plant today - it is an investment in the future of Paulding County. It reflects our appreciation for where we've come from and our commitment to the generations that will follow."

White oak trees were chosen as Heritage Trees because they grow in many soil types, resist most tree diseases and are native to Ohio. A specific white oak species will be chosen based on the county climate and purchased from a reputable Ohio tree nursery. The Heritage Trees program is made possible by Presenting Sponsor Cenovus Energy and Supporting Sponsors Ohio Liquor and The Lubrizol Foundation. The program was created in partnership with Dawes Arboretum, Cox Arboretum MetroPark, Holden Forests & Gardens, Keep Ohio Beautiful, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Rowe Arboretum, and Secrest Arboretum.

About Paulding County Paulding County, Ohio is a rural northwest Ohio community known for its strong agricultural heritage, small-town character, and accessible local government. Home to just under 19,000 residents, the county provides essential public services through its elected offices and departments, supporting everything from economic development and emergency management to courts and infrastructure. With 419 square miles of farmland, villages, and close-knit communities, Paulding County remains committed to serving residents with transparency, collaboration, and a focus on local needs.

**AUTHOR BROOKE WARD TO SHARE STORY AT DPL**

[DEFIANCE] - Brooke Ward, author of If it Ain't Brooke, Don't Fix It, will visit Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., on May 2 from 11 a.m.-noon to share her story.

At fifteen, Ward was an independent teenager with a full life ahead, until a life-altering accident left her a C4 incomplete quadriplegic.

In this unfiltered memoir, she discusses her fight to recover and long road to healing—physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Ward infuses her story with humor, grit, and a refusal to be defined by circumstance.

Following the book talk, Ward will be available to answer questions and sign copies of the book, which will be available for purchase at the event.

This program is free and open to all adults. No registration is needed.

For more information, contact Defiance Public Library at 419-782-1456.

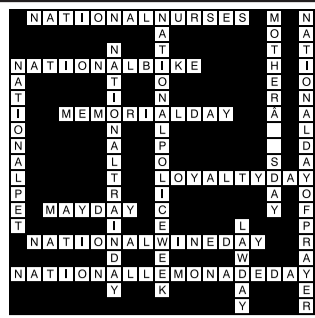
**VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE YOUTH MUSICAL AUDITIONS**

**AUDITIONS:** Director Emily Gehle, Assistant Directors Alyssa Taylor and Abbie Mengerink, and Music Director Grace Doctor will be holding auditions for ages 5-18 by appointment for Dear Edwina JR. on Sunday, May 3rd and Monday, May 4th in select time slots at The Van Wert Civic Theatre located at 118 S Race Street, Van Wert, OH.

About the show: Dear Edwina JR. follows the adventures of plucky advice-giver-extraordinaire, Edwina Spoonapple, as she directs the neighborhood kids in a series of buoyant production numbers for the latest edition of her weekly "Advice-a-Palooza."

Edwina and her friends share wisdom on everything from trying new foods to making new friends, through clever, catchy, and poignant songs. Dear Edwina JR. is a fast paced show with 30+ roles with opportunities for doubling.

What to expect: The directors are looking for auditioners aged 5-18. Each audition slot holds a maximum of 20 auditioners and lasts around an hour. Each auditioner is ex-



**Crossword solution from page 9**

pected to have signed up prior to auditioning, so make sure to fill out this form. Auditioners will be asked to arrive no more than 5 minutes early or late to the start of their chosen time slot. Anyone auditioning should come prepared to sing a song (30-60 seconds long) of their choice, learn choreography in a short time frame, and read lines from a script. Please sing your song acapella, if you prefer to use a backing track, you will be expected to bring that yourself. You do not need to bring sheet music and there is also no need to memorize or prepare anything from the show prior to auditions.

Questions? Contact the Director at Emily@vwct.org  
**AUDITION FORM BELOW:** <https://forms.gle/W3yrJNY3c5PCyVus8>

**HELP WANTED:**

**Innovative Assembly Services, LLC**  
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**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.

**THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E**

**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.

# AMRIZE PAULDING TO HOST 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE



Amrize Paulding is inviting the community to celebrate a major milestone as the company marks its 70th anniversary with a public open house at its cement plant on Friday, May 15, 2026.

The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Amrize Paulding Cement Plant, located at 11435 Road 176 in Paulding. Formerly known as Holcim, Amrize has been a longstanding part of the region's industrial landscape and is opening its doors to showcase seven decades of history and operations.

Community members, partners, and neighbors are encouraged to attend and take part in a variety of activities

designed to highlight both the plant's legacy and its current role in supporting infrastructure and development. The event will feature interactive tours, including shuttle bus access to Paulding's community fossil garden, offering a unique look at the site's geological significance.

Families can also enjoy complimentary lunch and activities suitable for all ages, making the open house a family-friendly event. In addition, educational opportunities will be available for those interested in learning more about cement production and how Amrize contributes to building and maintaining essential infrastructure across the

country.

Organizers note that the event also ties into the broader recognition of America's upcoming 250th anniversary, emphasizing the role of industries like Amrize in shaping the nation's growth.

Those planning to attend may RSVP by Friday, May 8, by contacting Bob West via email at r.west@amrize.com or by calling (419) 670-4953, although RSVP is not required.

The celebration offers a rare opportunity for the public to step inside a major local industry, connect with its team, and gain a deeper appreciation for its impact on the community over the past 70 years.

## AMERICAN LEGION POST 297 TO HOST 250<sup>th</sup> INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONY IN PAYNE



The Reuben J. Smith American Legion Post 297 will host a ceremony celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence at 2:00 pm July 4, 2026 at Buckeye Veterans Memorial Park. The park is located at the intersection of Maple, Merrin and Orchard Streets in Payne, Ohio.

Excerpts from the Declaration and the US Constitution

will be read along with special music of an a cappella rendition of the National Anthem. We invite the public to join us for this event and a time of food and fellowship afterwards at the American Legion Hall, 220 N Main Street in Payne.

In case of inclement weather the entire event will be held at the Legion Hall.

## LOCAL COUNTIES TO REPRESENT RURAL OHIO AT 2026 SELECT USA INVESTMENT SUMMIT

The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office and the Williams County Economic Development Corporation (WEDCO) have been selected by the SelectUSA Investment Summit committee to represent rural Ohio economic development at the 2026 SelectUSA Foreign Direct Investment Summit held in Washington, D.C., May 3-6.



WEDCO Director, Ashley Epling



PCED director, Tim Copsey

The SelectUSA Investment Summit is the premier national event dedicated to promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) in the United States. The Summit plays a critical role in attracting and facilitating business investment and job creation by raising global awareness of opportunities across the USA. It also provides direct, high-value connections between international companies and U.S. economic development organizations (EDOs).

The northwest Ohio offices were selected following the recommendation of Paul Zito, Vice President of International Development for the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP), the northwest Ohio arm of JobsOhio. Zito recog-

nized that two rural Ohio counties would be selected, and encouraged all RGP member counties to apply. WEDCO Director Ashley Epling and PCED Director Tim Copsey submitted applications and were chosen by the national committee to receive complimentary admission to the Summit.

Copsey stated, "It's certainly an honor for Paulding County to be recognized by the national SelectUSA committee to represent rural Ohio, but then also having Williams County chosen from our local six-county area just highlights the great things that are taking place in this corner of Ohio. Paulding County would not be able to attend this event without this selection award."

"It's a great opportunity for Williams County to be part of a larger conversation around investment and growth. Being selected to represent rural Ohio at the SelectUSA Investment Summit speaks to the work that's happening here locally and the momentum we're continuing to build. We're looking forward to making connections, sharing what our communities have to offer, and

highlighting why NW Ohio is well-positioned for international investment," stated WEDCO Dir. Ashley Epling. Both Paulding and Williams Counties have certified industrial sites available for immediate sale, as designated by the Ohio Department of Development. The certification indicates that the properties have completed all required environmental due diligence and are considered shovel-ready for investment.

Both counties received complimentary admission for two representatives. In addition to Copsey, PCED Administrative Assistant Jessica Stechsulte will represent Paulding County. WEDCO Director of Workforce Development Jennifer Stantz will join Epling, representing Williams County.

The SelectUSA Investment Summit attracts more than 5,500 participants annually and has directly contributed to more than \$250 billion in new U.S. investment projects, supporting over 125,000 jobs across the United States and its territories. Historically, participants represent more than 100 countries, joining economic developers from 54 U.S. states and territories, including more than 1,100 EDO representatives.

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