



WOODBURN DO IT BEST HARDWARE RECOGNIZES EMPLOYEE WITH GOLDEN HAMMER AWARD



Pictured above are local Do It Best employees: Tami Slattery, Len Schrock, Lisa Smith, Jim Gerig, and Denny Miesle.

Woodburn, Ind. — Woodburn and Grabill Hardware are recognizing longtime employee Lisa Smith for her years of service and dedication to the local community with the Golden Hammer Award. This award marks her career that has spanned decades in family retail and hardware work. Woodburn Do It Best works with Estwing Tool Co. who recognizes independent hardware stores with 50 years or more in the Independent Hardware industry. Smith's career has reflected the values of independent hardware stores and family-run businesses.

Smith has worked at Woodburn Hardware for the past 11 years and previously spent about seven years at Brueggemann Hardware. Her experience also includes two

years at a former Fort Wayne paint store, Ream Steckbeck, which is no longer in business.

Her roots in retail run much deeper, however, as she grew up working in her family's business, Norm's Family Center. The store, originally established in 1912 by her grandfather Henry, was later operated by her father, Norm Brenneke, beginning in the 1940s. Smith began working there at the age of 14 and remained involved as the business continued through the decades before her father retired in the 1990s. Smith's grandmother, Carolyn Brenneke, carried on the family business after her husband Henry, passed away, while still raising for four sons until Norm was able to take over when he became an adult. The

kids all helped during these times.

Over the years, Smith said one of the most rewarding parts of her work has been building relationships with customers. Having spent her life in small-town retail, she has come to know many people over generations, creating a strong sense of familiarity and community.

Smith continues to live in Woodburn, where she has spent most of her life. Though officially retired, she still works part-time at the hardware store, putting in about 15 hours a week. She said the role has become a natural extension of retirement, allowing her to stay active and connected.

(Continued on Page 3)

SHOP LOCAL CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE IN ANTWERP

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is encouraging residents to support local businesses this Mother's Day season with a special community raffle designed to reward shoppers while boosting local commerce.

The "Shop Local for Mother's Day Raffle" will take place May 4 through May 9. Community members can participate simply by shopping at Antwerp businesses during that time period.

To enter, shoppers are asked to save their receipts, write their name and phone number on them, and submit them at designated drop-off locations, including Leland Smith or Petals and Vines. Each receipt serves as an entry, giving participants multiple chances to win.

The raffle winner will be drawn at noon on May 9. The prize will be a basket filled with a variety of items donated by local businesses, showcasing the wide range of products and services available within the Antwerp

(Continued on Page 2)

DRIVE INTO HISTORY: CRANE TOWNSHIP TOUR CELEBRATES AMERICA 250



Crane Township is proud to announce the release of its new self-guided driving history tour, created in conjunction with the nationwide America 250 movement commemorating the 250th anniversary of the United States.

This unique and engaging experience offers residents and visitors a chance to explore the rich history of Crane Township at their own pace. The tour highlights significant locations throughout the township, each selected for its role in shaping the community's story over the past two centuries.

Participants will follow a printed map and booklet that guide them through each stop along the route. While a limited number of printed booklets are available at the Paulding County History Museum and the Paulding County Carnegie Library, the full booklet can also be accessed online at cranetwppcohoio.gov, allowing participants to conveniently print their own copy.

Blending past and present, the tour offers a hands-on way to connect with local history while reflecting on the broader American story. From early settlement and transportation routes to community landmarks, each stop invites participants to imagine life in earlier times and appreciate the legacy that continues today.

Although future plans include a GPS-guided version of

the tour, the current experience embraces a more traditional approach encouraging participants to navigate using a map, much like travelers of the past.

The tour extends beyond Crane Township, with two stops located in neighboring Carryall Township. As Crane Township concludes its bicentennial celebration, it is proud to recognize Carryall Township as it looks ahead to its own bicentennial in 2029—becoming the second of Paulding County's twelve townships to reach this milestone. In many ways, this shared history represents a passing of the torch from one community to the next.

In addition, visitors can look forward to new "ghost town" signs that will soon be installed at several tour stops, including Henpeck, Furnace, and Knoxdale, further bringing the township's early settlements to life.

Whether completed in one *(Continued on Page 3)*

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ATTENTION

Beginning on **May 11, 2026** the Paulding County Hospital Fitness Center will be **CLOSED** to anyone not actively receiving therapy. This includes the following:

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation

This will be in effect until further notice. During this time current active gym users can still use the Antwerp Regional Fitness Center.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!



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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

May 5

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

May 6

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- PC Republican Women's Meeting @ Fiesta Habaneros, Paulding, 5p

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
- PC Central Committee Republican Meeting @ Hollywood & Vine, 7p

May 8-9

- Mother's Day Plant event @ Defiance Co. Fairgrounds,

May 9

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

May 12

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p

May 13

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

Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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PJHS MINDSET MOTIVATORS: ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE



Paulding Junior High School is utilizing the 7-Mindsets curriculum to address the social and emotional needs of students. Each unit revolves around a specific theme students can apply to their lives. This unit's theme was Attitude of Gratitude. Shown in the picture are Paulding Junior High School's Attitude of Gratitude Mindset Motivators.

WT GROVER HILL ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Grover Hill Elementary students of the month of April are: Front row, left to right: Paislee Bissell, Kallie Wydrst, Isabella Roque Vargas, Maxwell Bennett, Kinsley Dunderman, Ronin Spangler and Wyatt Mengerink. Back row, left to right: Gracelynn Shelton, Nessa Kline, Toby Beining, Dakota Miner, Mia Kamphaus, Marlie-Jane Clutter and Harper Hogue. Not present for the photo: Aaron Kline, Xavier Morales and Kipton Jay.

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER CELEBRATES 50 YEARS WITH TIME CAPSULE BURIAL



Photos from Richardson Photography captured the memorable occasion.

VAN WERT, Ohio — As part of the 50th anniversary celebration, Vantage Career Center marked a milestone moment by burying a time capsule on April 24th, preserving memories and milestones for future generations.

The special ceremony brought together administration and student representatives from all 19 of Van-

tage's career-technical programs, each contributing items that reflect today's student experience, technology, and the impact of hands-on learning.

Superintendent Rick Turner reflected on the significance of the event during the ceremony.

"Today is a proud and memorable day for Vantage Career Center as we come together to bury a new time capsule during our 50th Anniversary year," said Turner. "This is more than placing items in the ground—it is preserving a moment in time and telling the story of who we are in 2026."

He added, "For 50 years, Vantage Career Center has been changing lives through

career-technical education... We are proud of our past, but even more excited about where we are headed."

Following the remarks, student representatives from the Construction Equipment Technology program, alongside instructors Chris Miles and Deb Richardson, assisted in burying the time capsule.

Adding a meaningful connection to the ceremony, the capsule lid was engraved by Larry Ray, instructor of Machining and Engineering Technologies, who also played a role in the school's 2000 time capsule burial.

The time capsule itself also carries special history. It is the same capsule originally buried by Vantage students and staff in 2000 and has now been reopened and reused for the school's 50th anniversary celebration, creating a unique link between generations of Vantage students.

The capsule was filled with a wide variety of items representing Vantage today. Contents included a patch from the school's first School Resource Officer, Deputy Jill Gemmer, healthcare-related

items, textbooks, photos of current students and staff, Adult Education pamphlets, items signed by current students, technology projects created by students in their labs, essays from students giving insights on the current and looking to the future, USB drives full of memories and history, and this year's memory book filled with images from the 2025-2026 school year.

Students and staff then gathered for photos to commemorate the occasion and celebrate five decades of career-technical excellence.

The time capsule will remain sealed for future generations, offering tomorrow's students and staff a glimpse into life at Vantage Career Center during its 50th anniversary year.

PAULDING BOYS, GIRLS FINISH RUNNER-UP AT DELPHOS ST. JOHN INVITATIONAL

DELPHOS — The Paulding track and field teams turned in strong performances on April 25 at the Delphos St. John Invitational, with both the boys and girls squads earning runner-up finishes.

The Panther boys totaled 117 points to place second behind Lincolnview (123), while the girls scored 112 points, also finishing behind Lincolnview (165).

Paulding's boys were powered by multiple first-place finishes. Achilles Mead led the way by winning both the 1600-meter and 800-meter runs, while Max Daegar captured the 3200-meter title. Landon Grinnell added a first-place finish in the 400-meter dash.

The Panthers also dominated in relays, winning both the 4x800 (Achilles Mead, Alex Highwarden, Max Daegar, Landon Grinnell) and the 4x200 (Bolu Omonayin, Grinnell, Gannon Parrett, Emmett Barnes).

Additional top performances included Hunter Harwell taking second in pole vault, Parker Egnor finishing second in shot put and third in discus, and Gannon Parrett placing third in long jump and fourth in high jump.

On the girls side, Kayleigh Dunham highlighted the meet with a first-place finish in the 100-meter hurdles, while also placing second in the 300 hurdles and high jump.

The girls 4x200 relay team of Makenna Adams, Miley Vanhorn, Laney, Elliette Roughton, and Dunham captured first place. The 4x800 relay team (Kyler Foor, Brynlee Mangette, Jayla Griffith, Dani Borland) added a runner-up finish.

Jayla Griffith placed third in the 400-meter dash, while Kyler Foor earned third in the 800. Anya Mead also contributed with a second-place finish in discus and fourth in shot put.

Scripture of the Week

"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him."
— Hebrews 11:6

IDENTITY IN CHRIST



1 Peter 2:9 (NIV): "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light."

This verse encapsulates the identity and purpose of believers in Christ. Here are some key points to consider:

1. Chosen People: The term "chosen" signifies that God has intentionally selected His people for a special relationship with Himself. This suggests a deep and personal commitment, showing that believers are not just random individuals but are valued and significant in God's sight.

2. Royal Priesthood: Being called a "royal priesthood" highlights the dual role believers have. Priests in the Old Testament served as intermediaries between God and His people, offering sacrifices and leading worship. Here, it suggests that all believers have access to God and are tasked with a ministry of worship and service. The "royal" aspect emphasizes the dignity and honor of this role, indicating that believers share in Christ's kingship.

3. Holy Nation: This phrase indicates that the community of believers is set apart

for God's purposes. "Holy" implies a calling to live according to God's standards, reflecting His purity and character in their lives. It emphasizes collective identity, reminding believers that they are part of a larger family—the body of Christ.

4. God's Special Possession: This indicates a deep sense of belonging. Believers are treasured by God, akin to how one might hold dear something of great value. It speaks to the intimate relationship God has with His people and His desire for them to thrive in His love.

5. Declaring the Praises: The purpose of being a chosen people and a royal priesthood is to "declare the praises" of God. This is not just about singing or lip service; it encompasses a lifestyle of worship that reflects gratitude and recognition of God's goodness and grace. Believers are called to share their testimony and the transformative love of Christ with others.

6. Called Out of Darkness: This contrasts the past life of sin and separation from God. The "darkness" symbolizes ignorance, despair, and evil. Being called into "His wonderful light" signifies enlightenment, hope, and the truth found in Christ. This transformative experience is central to the believer's journey and testimony.

In summary, 1 Peter 2:9 serves as a powerful reminder of the identity and role of believers. It encourages them to live out their faith actively, reflecting the light of Christ in their lives while proclaiming His goodness to the world around them.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." - Matthew 5:16 (KJV)

Peace and Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

(Continued from Page 1)

community.

The initiative is part of the Chamber's continued efforts to promote local shopping and strengthen connections between residents and small businesses. By tying the event to Mother's Day, organizers hope to inspire thoughtful gift-giving while keeping dollars circulating within the local economy.

Residents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to shop local, support small businesses, and enter for a chance to win a collection of community-sponsored gifts.

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I'LL FLY AWAY

Penny For Your Thoughts

By: Nancy Whitaker
 "When I die, hallelujah bye and bye, I'll Fly Away"

This is a dear old hymn that I always knew growing up and I still play and love it.

The year is 1958 so let's all go to church and we can listen to this old gospel tune.

You hear:
 People singing loud, hands clapping, feet stomping as the familiar words of "I'll Fly Away" rang out.

I was raised in the Pentecostal faith and we loved our hand clapping and raising our hands in praise to the Lord.

Now my age is up there, and I have heard this old gospel song since I was little. So, just how old is this song and who wrote it?

I'll Fly Away was written in 1929 in a cotton field by hymn writer Allen Brumley. He was picking cotton and was thinking about how one day he would stop working in the hot heat and get his wings and fly away, leaving behind the work in the cotton fields.

He was 24 years old at the time

Brumley's rural background made it natural for him to appeal to the common man. Even as a small lad picking cotton in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, he knew he would much rather be involved in music than in any other occupation.

At age 17, he began his serious music study, and during the next several years received

training and instruction from several mentors and one of them was E. M. Bartlett, the composer of "Victory in Jesus."

In 1931, while teaching a singing school in Powell, Missouri, Brumley met Goldie Edith Schell. They were married shortly thereafter. Although he had begun his songwriting, he had done nothing with the songs. Goldie encouraged him to send his manuscripts to a publisher, assuring him that the songs had quality and that "any publisher would be glad to publish them."

Acting on Goldie's advice



and encouragement, his first submission to a publisher was "I'll Fly Away." As a result, the song, written during The Depression, was carried to the nation by radio and traveling Southern Gospel quartets.

People everywhere were receiving renewed hope as they listened to "I'll Fly Away" and other Brumley compositions.

The song "I'll fly away" is one of gospel musics most recorded songs having been recorded approximately 5000 times.

Do you know and sing "I'll Fly Away"? Did you know that it was written in 1929? So now I will say "When I die hallelujah bye and bye, I'll Fly Away." Tell me your thoughts about this song and I'll give you A Penny For Your Thoughts.

She also enjoys time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In her spare time, Smith enjoys gardening, cooking, crocheting, and traveling. She and her husband frequently take short trips and have an Alaskan cruise planned later this year, fulfilling a longtime goal. They also regularly visit South Carolina, where they have a condo.

Throughout her years behind the counter, Smith said one piece of advice has stayed with her: when helping customers, listen—especially to those who know what they're doing. That mindset, she said,

has helped her build trust and serve generations of customers.

As she continues working part-time, Smith said she

plans to remain at the store as long as she is able, maintaining the connections and community ties that have defined her lifelong career.

DETWILER & RODRIQUEZ FAMILY FUND SUPPORTS CHP HOSPICE



Congratulations to the Defiance Area Inpatient Hospice Center (CHP) for receiving a \$2,500 donation from the Detwiler & Rodriquez Family Donor Advised Fund, a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella. This

gift will be used for the Rays of Hope camp grief bags for children who have experienced loss.

Pictured above are Shelley Detwiler - DAF Fund Holder and Laurie Hockenberry - CHP LSW.

NSCC PHLEBOTOMY & MEDICAL ASSISTING GRADUATES CELEBRATED AT PINNING CEREMONY



Medical Assisting: (l-r) Rhonda Lazette, McKenna Shock, Norma Ambriz, and Abbie Meyer.



Phlebotomy: (l-r) Rhonda Lazette, Shawna Coon, Alyssia Smith, MaKaela Treace, Brooke Trowbridge.

Three students from the medical assisting program, along with eleven students

from the phlebotomy technician program were recognized at a special ceremony held last Wednesday evening at Northwest State Community College. Both options lead to entry-level positions in the health care field, and students earning the phlebotomy technician certificate may choose to continue their education for an associate degree in medical assisting.

Medical Assisting students recognized: Norma Ambriz (Fayette), Abbie Meyer (Stryker), McKenna Shock (Defiance)

Phlebotomy students recognized: Jacee Altaffer (Montpelier), Jenny Bauer (Paulding), Whitney Campbell (Edgerton), Shawna Coon (Bryan), Juan Gutierrez (Delta), Laura Leupp (Stryker), Alyssia Smith (Liberty Center), Brynn Spengler (Wauseon), Lexus Stipp (Delta), MaKaela Treace (Montpelier), Brooke Trowbridge (Bryan)

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

Earnest Earl Tilley was born April 21, 1896, in Broughton, Ohio, the son of George W. Tilley, born September 1865 in Ohio, and Bertha (Grubb) Tilley, born April 29, 1876, in Fairfield County, Ohio. The couple was married February 12, 1893, in Paulding.

By 1900, the Tilley family was living in Latty, Ohio, where George was farming. They were raising three children: Louie Ann, born February 5, 1894; Earnest Earl, April 21, 1896; and Ida Mae, September 5, 1899. By 1910, the family had grown with the addition of Mary Ethel, born August 3, 1905, and Emma E., born in 1909.

Louie, Earnest, and Ida were in grade school, likely attending the old Latty school. The family continued to grow with the births of George Tilley Jr., February 2, 1911, and William Leroy Tilley, September 13, 1913. William later went on to serve in World War II.

On June 5, 1917, Earnest went to the Broughton Town Hall and registered for the World War I draft. He was de-

scribed as medium height and build, with gray eyes and dark brown hair, and was working as a common laborer for Otto Schlatter in Broughton. He listed his family as dependent on him for financial support. Despite this, he was accepted into the United States Army out of Paulding on June 25, 1918.

He served in the 16th Company, 4th Training Battalion, 158th Brigade until July 15, 1918, completing his basic training. He was then assigned to Company D, 334th Infantry, where he served until August 12, 1918. He was subsequently sent to Camp Sherman to train with Company D, 2nd Developmental Battalion, 158th Depot Brigade.

While serving at Camp Sherman, Earnest developed pneumonia. On October 5, 1918, he passed away. His father, George Tilley, was notified. After Earnest was brought home, funeral services were held, and he was buried October 12, 1918, at Pleasant View Cemetery south of Latty. He was laid to rest in Lot 85, Block 7, Section, Grave 1.

In 1922, Mary married Charles Head, a World War I veteran. George Tilley passed away June 25, 1927, in Broughton and was buried in Hedges Cemetery east of Broughton. Bertha remarried in 1928 to George W. Sander-son. She passed away April 3, 1945, and was buried with George.

Mary passed away in 1943 and was buried in Hedges Cemetery, with Charles joining her in 1967. Ida Mae passed away in 1949. George Jr. passed away April 7, 1999, and William Leroy Tilley on April 7, 1980.

...Until Next Time!

(Crane Twp... cont'd from Page 1)

trip or explored over time, the driving tour offers a meaningful and memorable way to cel-

celebrate America's 250th anniversary, right here in Crane Township.

For more information and to download the tour booklet, visit cranetwppcohoio.gov.

EDGERTON USES BIG 5th INNING TO DEFEAT PAULDING

EDGERTON — A seven-run fifth inning powered Edgerton to an 11-5 victory over Paulding in baseball action on April 28.

Paulding stayed within striking distance early, trailing just 4-3 through four innings after pushing across runs in the second, third, and fifth frames. However, Edgerton broke the game open in the bottom of the fifth, plating seven runs to pull away.

Colten Hunt led Paulding at the plate with a single, double, and two RBIs, while Easton Lehman added a single and double, scoring twice and driving in a run. Ridge Hunt

contributed a double and triple with a run scored, and Jackson Griffith added an RBI.

Edgerton collected 10 hits, highlighted by Parker Elden, who had two singles and a double while scoring three runs and driving in three. Jackson Flower added a single with two runs and three RBIs, and Myles Baker chipped in with a single, double, run, & RBI.

Kellen Sanchez earned the win for Edgerton, working five innings, while Maddox Baker closed out the game with two scoreless innings and four strikeouts.

Hunt took the loss for Paulding, striking out eight over 4-2/3 innings. Ridge Hunt provided solid relief, allowing no hits over the final 1-1/3 innings.

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SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

MS. ARNOLD - HS/MS

MR. BILLMAN - ELEMENTARY

ATHLETIC CALENDAR

As we enter the month of May and the last few weeks of school for the 2025-2026 school year, students and staff are very busy with end of the year activities. Award programs, concerts, sporting events, and student programs highlight the month of May. Please check the district calendar and support our students with your attendance at these events. Students in grades K - 11 will likewise be in a celebration mood with their last day of school arriving Thursday, May 21st.

The end of April and the first two weeks of May are also times to celebrate and recognize the efforts of our faculty. School Secretaries Appreciation Day was Wednesday, April 22nd. Ohio School Bus Driver Appreciation Day was Tuesday, April 28th. National Teacher Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 5th while May 4-8 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. May 6th has been designated National School Nurse Day. Please consider during this time frame to thank a bus driver, teacher, aide, school nurse, or other school employee who made a difference in your child's life. We are proud of all our employees and believe they make a huge difference in the lives of children every day.

The Class of 2026, our 142nd graduating class from Antwerp High School, will celebrate Commencement on May 17th at 2:00 p.m. with doors opening at 12:30. The ceremony will take place in the Main Gymnasium. We congratulate our senior class on their many accomplishments in reaching this milestone and wish them the best as they continue on a journey of lifelong learning.

During the summer months, a few projects will be completed in time for our annual Open House slated for Wednesday, August 19th and the first day of school scheduled for Thursday, August 20th. The annual repairs and sealing of our asphalt parking lots will take place during the month of July. Interior projects include replacement of carpet in several classrooms and both gymnasium floors and Auditoria stage will receive their annual re-waxing during the month of July.

On the academic front, we are excited to share with you that two new academic programs and respective teachers will be in place for the start of the 2026-2027 school year. Our new academic programs are STEAM/CTE and Ag. Science. During the April Board of Education meeting, Della Miesle was hired to serve as the STEAM/CTE teacher while Baylee March was hired to serve as our Ag. Science teacher.

Prior to the start of the 2026-2027 school year, incoming 7th and 12th grade students will need updated immunizations per Ohio law. Students entering 7th grade will need the Tdap and Meningococcal Vaccines. Students entering 12th grade will likewise need the Meningococcal Vaccine. Additional information regarding the vaccine requirements, other recommended vaccines, and immunization clinics provided by the Paulding County Health Department, will be located on our school website and school app.

I want to thank the community for the support given to the Staff throughout this school year. Antwerp is a wonderful school district with excellent staff, students, and parents. As noted earlier, the 2026 - 2027 school year will begin Thursday, August 20th. In the meantime, enjoy the long summer days with your family and friends.

Dr. Martin A. Miller, Superintendent

First, I'd like to extend a big thank you to all of those who worked to make this year's Prom and Post-Prom a safe and memorable night for our students! It was a successful evening and showcased student talent for the theme of *All That Jazz*. What a beautiful venue and another thank you is in store for Grant's Catering for their partnership in making the night so special.

We are officially finished with state testing for the school year. Excellent job staff and students for your hard work and preparation.

Attention Seniors! Please remember that all academic requirements must be met and all school fees/fines must be paid prior to graduation practice. Students must take part in graduation practice on May 15th in order to participate in our Graduation ceremony on May 17th. Graduation practice will take place at 8:00am.

Our Senior Academic Awards night was held on Wednesday, April 29th in the Auditoria at 7:00 p.m. A huge congratulations to all of the seniors on your much-deserved accomplishments. We are all very proud of you! Awards for underclassmen will be given out during the week of May 18th during the school day.

Summer School for MS and HS students will begin on May 26th and finish on June 5th. Students who do not meet the requirements during the first two weeks will be required to attend a third week from June 8th to June 12th. There will be morning sessions from 8:00-11:00, as well as an afternoon session from 12:00-3:00. Students and their parents will be notified by the end of the school year if they will be required to attend Credit Recovery classes during this time.

Excellent job, students and staff, on another successful year at Antwerp Middle/High School! I hope you all have a wonderful and relaxing summer, and I look forward to seeing you back in the building in August.

~ Ms. Jessie Arnold, MS/HS Principal

HS/MS GUIDANCE NEWS

Parents of students that are required to come to summer school for credit recovery purposes will be notified in early May for first semester failures and no later than May 22nd for 2nd semester failures. Summer school will run from May 26th - June 5th.

The AP Exam schedule is as follows: Biology, May 4th; Chemistry, May 5th; Statistics, May 7th; and Computer Science, May 15th. Students who are on the Disney Trip will complete their AP Exams on May 20th.

Students in grades 6-11 will be given a tentative copy of their 2026-2027 schedule before the end of the school year. Changes to the schedule can be made up through the second week of the school year for students in grades 9-12.

Fourth quarter report cards for grades 6-12 will be available on Progressbook after May 22nd.

May is here! The month of May brings great excitement and plenty of activities. Please continue to communicate with our teachers and stay on top of events by checking our Events tab on our School App.

Our state testing dates are now behind us! Thank you for all the hard work put forth by our teachers and students for preparation and effort throughout the school year in getting ready for the state tests.

Paperwork and registration forms for our Summer Reading and Math programs have been sent home for grades K-5. Paperwork is due by May 1st, but please call the school office if you have any questions or would like to sign up.

REMINDERS FOR MAY:

- Field Day for Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will be May 18th.
- Field Day for grades 3-5 will be May 19th.
- Our students last day of school will now be May 21st.

MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to our Students of the Month. Keep on the great work! Y'5 - Jensen Swary, Kindergarten - Daniel Zuber, Owen Treesh & Reid Cross, 1st Grade - Hadley DeVore & Simon 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

~ Mr. Doug Billman, Elementary Principal

ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE

Ohio schools are required by Senate Bill 288, also known as Erin's Law, to provide annual, age-appropriate instruction on child sexual abuse prevention for students in kindergarten through sixth grade. This year counselors from Westwood Behavioral Services will be presenting lessons to all students in grades kindergarten through fifth, that will focus on topics, such as safe and unsafe touches, and how to protect themselves in unsafe situations. These lessons will be presented in an age appropriate manner, using a curriculum called *Educate to Protect*, which meets legislative requirements. Letters were sent home to all students in grades kindergarten through fifth. Parents and guardians are asked to only send the permission form at the bottom of the letter back if they **do not** wish for their child to participate. If you would like more information about this program, you can visit the website, <https://www.educatetoprotect.org/>, and click on **Program Details**. This will provide you with a detailed list of topics that will be touched upon in each grade level.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE UPDATE

We wish our foreign language teacher Lola Cortes Revuelta and her family the best as they will be heading back to Spain following three very successful school years of service to our high school students. On the heels of her upcoming departure, our administrative team has worked for the past few months with the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce leadership to find another teacher from Spain to fill our upcoming vacancy. We are excited to announce that our board of education will hire Delilah Delgado for the position. Delilah will arrive in our school district in late July and get settled in and ready to serve our students for the 2026-2027 school year. A more formal introduction of Delilah will appear in our August newsletter. Pictured (right) are Mrs. Revuelta and her husband.

VARSIY BASEBALL

May 4 5:00 @ North Central

VARSIY SOFTBALL

May 5 5:00 vs. Delta
 May 7 5:00 @ Ottoville
 May 11 5:00 @ Woodlan
 May 12 5:00 vs. Lincolnview

VARSIY TRACK & FIELD

May 5 4:30 vs. Edg/Cont/FJ
 May 8 4:30 Antwerp Invite
 May 14 4:00 GMC @ Ayersville
 May 15 6:00 GMC Finals @ Ayersville
 May 21 TBD Districts
 May 23 TBD Districts

JUNIOR HIGH TRACK & FIELD

May 4 4:30 @ Ayersville/FV/Kalida
 May 11 4:00 GMC @ Hicksville

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 7	Pre-K Last Day of School
May 7	Indiana Wild Presentation
May 8	Last day for Lifewise
May 11-12	Pre-K Picnic at the park
May 12	Sports Physicals
May 15	Seniors Last Day of School
May 17	Graduation
May 18-19	Elementary Field Days
May 21	Last Day of School (K-11)
May 21	Board of Education Meeting
May 26-Jun 5	Summer School

RENOVATION PROJECTS

Three renovation projects will get underway in May. First on the list is the renovation of the Field House. The Antwerp Board of Education and our Antwerp Athletic Booster organization are joining forces to renovate the twenty-three-year-old building. The renovation project will take several months to complete and result in an inviting space for utilization by students, staff, and community members. Another renovation project includes the addition and enclosure of space for our busses. The bus garage renovation will add several new bays and a wash bay. The project is scheduled to be completed by late October. Our third renovation project will involve the creation of a new vestibule entry for visitors seeking to enter our elementary office area. The entry will be located just north of the exterior door to the art room. The project will enhance the overall safety and security of our facility and improve efficiency with the entry/exit of individuals. Furthermore, a new entry/exit management system will be located in the new elementary school entrance similar to the system currently in place at our main entrance to the middle/high school office area.



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.

email:
info@westbendnews.net
fax: 419-258-1313
PS: West Bend News
PO Box 1008
Antwerp, OH 45813

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:
I taught second grade for many years. When a child got caught in a lie, I'd sit them down and explain something simple: telling the truth is always better — because if I found out they lied on top of whatever they did, that was double trouble.
I've been thinking about that lesson during this campaign.
I'm Deb Hoops, and my

husband Jim is running for State Senate in District 1. We've been married 37 years. I know him better than anyone — better than the people running ads about him.
Jim sponsored legislation that cut property taxes by \$3 billion. He supported the income tax cut in the last state budget. He co-sponsored House Bill 68 to keep biological males out of girls' sports. More than 50 local officials in the 1st Senate District have endorsed him — because they've watched him deliver, year after year.
His opponent has a different story to tell about Jim. It isn't true. And Craig Riedel knows it isn't true.
Craig Riedel, you're in double trouble.

—Deb Hoops
Napoleon, OH

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Transportation cuts and more are a reality for Paulding Exempted Village Schools.

As a board, we wanted to get the correct information in front of as many people as possible to communicate some of the issues, both internal and external, with our schools. These issues are the reason that we have decided to place a 0.75% income tax on the ballot for the May 2026 Primary. It will be for a period of 5 years.

First, we wanted to touch on the external issues. The State of Ohio has cut school funding across the board, and school districts across the state are feeling it. In the same breath, the State Legislature just passed property tax reform that is clawing back property tax revenues that schools have already received.

We are seeing a dramatic decrease in revenue from two sources that make up 77% of our total revenue, and these revenues do not receive the same inflationary increases that expenses do. Salaries and benefits make up 82% of our costs, and salaries are expected to increase by 2.8% next year, while benefits are forecasted to go up by 5.7%. The recently passed property tax reform will cost Paulding \$1.3 million next school year alone.

While we sometimes hear people say that "it's hard to lose money you never had," they are ignoring the reality for school districts. Union labor contracts last for three years, state budgets are for two years, and the state requires schools to file five-year forecasts. Schools plan based on projections several years away, and cutting revenue levels after a union contract is settled creates imbalances with no easy fix. Saying the state cost the district money by taking away money we never had is more accurate than the opposite—we had fund balances figured out to the dollar based on revenue assumptions, and cutting revenue is cutting the fund balance while we're locked into our expenses.

Our local funding has been steady for 35 years, with no new continuing levies passed since 1991, and only the five-year emergency levy put in front of the voters before the permanent improvement income tax was proposed last fall. These external issues have put Paulding in a tough spot.

The General Fund is struggling with the state funding and property tax revenue reductions and can't subsidize the Permanent Improvement Fund like it did in the past. Maintenance work the last few years has been reactive due to a lack of resources. The board hasn't made decisions of "this vs. that" so much as "that part isn't working, can we live without it?" and more and more the answer is "no".

A few of those broken parts from over the years have been:

- When the boiler controls failed, they were rewired to bypass computer controls when they went offline for Paulding campus. Obsolete parts were not available new; used parts were bought on eBay.
- HVAC controls were a proprietary system, meaning we could only use one vendor for troubleshooting and repairs. Once the used eBay parts failed, the district paid

for an open-source controls system to be installed to replace the proprietary one. Now, any vendor can troubleshoot or repair the computer controls. The cost was \$75,000. This did not extend to the other HVAC components, only the boiler and chiller units. Spare parts from Paulding are now at Oakwood, which has the old proprietary HVAC controls system that was replaced at Paulding. Oakwood's HVAC control system is failing also. It is one more thing on the long list of maintenance projects that the district doesn't have resources to fix.

- There are 6 compressors providing air conditioning at the schools in Paulding, and at best, 3 good compressors work at a time, usually only one or two. To cool the buildings and remove humidity from the air, at least 3 have to be working; last fall's mold issue was the result of only one compressor running. The chillers were at the end of their useful life several years ago.
- Air handlers, the large fans that circulate air throughout the buildings, variable air volume (VAV) boxes, and unit ventilators, the units in each classroom that call for hot or cold air, have begun to experience mechanical failures. The computer controls, a separate part that allows the controls system to "talk to" the HVAC components, like air handlers and unit ventilators, have also started failing. The estimated repair cost for the Paulding campus is \$1.5 million. Without these repairs, the buildings will continue to experience big temperature differences, like 85 degrees in Mr. Snodgrass's room, but 60 degrees in Mr. Arend's room. Humidity will stay uncontrollable, and potentially mean more mold, and troubleshooting issues will be impossible. Also, valves, dampers, VAV boxes, and air handlers and fans all currently have to be manually operated and turned on and off each morning and afternoon, with no ability to gradually increase or decrease heating or cooling—they are either on or off, which uses more electricity and natural gas to provide uncontrolled heating and cooling. This uses more time in the maintenance department's day to manually do what the controls used to

(Continued on Page 8)

WHICH RETIREMENT PLAN IS RIGHT FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

If you're a local business owner, a workplace retirement plan can be a powerful tool — helping you manage taxes, strengthen employee retention and build personal financial security.

Many in your situation, however, assume retirement plans are complicated or only suitable for large companies. The reality is quite different. Today's retirement plan options encompass businesses of every size, from solo entrepreneurs to companies with dozens of employees.

The key is understanding which plans work best for different kinds of businesses:

- Self-employed individuals or businesses without employees. Three commonly used retirement plans:
 - Simplified employee pension (SEP) plans are relatively straightforward, low-maintenance, lower-cost and flexible on how much you contribute each year.
 - Owner-only 401(k) plans are ideal if you're willing to accept additional cost and complexity in exchange for benefits like higher contribution limits and borrowing options.
 - Owner-only defined benefit plans work best for owners with high, steady income who want to maximize their retirement contributions and guaranteed retirement income. These plans come with required annual funding and greater administrative complexity.

Businesses with employees can also consider an SEP plan, although it only allows for employer contributions. Other plan options include:

- The SIMPLE IRA (savings incentive match plan for employees) can work well for companies with 100 or fewer employees seeking a low-maintenance option. Employer contributions are required, and it has lower contribution limits compared to other plan types.
- Traditional 401(k) plans offer maximum flexibility by allowing both employee salary deferrals and employer contributions that can be adjusted based on business performance. These plans have added costs and administrative responsibilities.

• Safe harbor 401(k) plans are ideal if you want to maximize your own retirement contributions without complex testing requirements and you're willing to make required employer contributions.

• A cash balance plan is often paired with another plan type, such as a 401(k), to allow greater retirement savings. It works well when you have a smaller company with high-earning employees and consistent cash flow, and you're comfortable making required contributions.

Each plan type involves different eligibility requirements, establishment deadlines, contribution limits, complexity and costs. In determining a workplace retirement plan that's right for your business, you'll want to consider your number of employees, desired contribution levels, comfort with required employer contributions and willingness to handle administrative responsibilities. And, of course, the goals for your business and your own retirement are important criteria.

Fortunately, you don't have to navigate this decision alone. A financial advisor can help you evaluate the trade-offs among different plan types and select the option that best fits your situation. They can explain how various plans work and guide you through the setup process.

Starting a workplace retirement plan is an investment in your future, your business and your employees. With professional guidance, you can find a plan that helps everyone build financial security while positioning your business for continued success.

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

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

- Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587
- Payne:** Antwerp Exchange Bank, Dollar General, Lichty's Barber Shop, Maramart, Panchos, Payne Library, Puckerbrush Pizza, Village offices, Vancrest of Payne
- Sherwood:** Post Office, Sherwood Bank, Sherwood Library, Village Food Emporium
- Scott:** Scott Post Office
- Van Wert:** CVS, Ace Hardware, Chief, Walmart, Orchard Tree

INDIANA LOCATIONS

- Fort Wayne:** Golden Years Nursing Home, Golden Years Assisted Living, Hahn Systems, Walmart
- Grabill:** Grabill Hardware, Farm Building Supply, Save-A-Lot/Grabill Country Sales
- Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar Exchange, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp General Bank
- Hoagland:** Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market
- Milan Center:** Milan Center Feed & Grain
- Monroeville:** All American Marathon, Adams Heritage Assisted Living, Dollar General, Phillips 66
- New Haven:** ACPL Library, Clips, Chamber of Commerce, CVS, H&K Chevrolet, Ken's Meat Market, McDonalds, NH Bakery, Paterson Hardware, Richard's
- Woodburn:** ACPL Library, Chop Shop, Clip-N-Tan, Country Oasis, Dollar General, Financial Partners, Heckley Automotive, Post Office, Phoenix Manor, S&V Liquors, Woodburn Hardware, Woodburn Xpress

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PAULDING POWERS PAST ANTWERP IN HIGH-SCORING BASEBALL MATCHUP



Antwerp's Jacobson McKay is focused on catching the ball while Paulding senior Colten Hunt slides safely into second during this close duel. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING — A big offensive performance lifted Paulding to a 16-9 victory over Antwerp in varsity baseball action on April 30.

The Panthers' lineup stayed hot throughout the game, putting consistent pressure on Antwerp pitching and building enough of a cushion to hold off the Archers' offense in a game that featured plenty of scoring on both sides.

Antwerp was led offensively by Gage Clevinger and Luke Parrett, who each collected two hits. Clevinger finished 2-for-4 with two runs scored, while Parrett went 2-for-4 with a run and two RBI. Riley Smith added a strong

performance, going 1-for-3 with two runs and two RBI.

Additional contributions came from Lucas Sproles, who scored twice and drove in a run, while Michael Rohrs and CJ Eaton each added an RBI. The Archers totaled nine runs in the contest, showing the ability to generate offense despite the loss.

On the mound, CJ Eaton logged 5.2 innings for Antwerp, allowing four earned runs while striking out six.

Paulding, however, proved difficult to contain, finishing with 16 runs in the win to secure the non-league victory on their home field.

EDGERTON PULLS AWAY FROM RAIDERS FOR CONFERENCE WIN



Freshman with a future, pitcher Elly Rickard, gets the pop fly out for the Raiders! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

HAVILAND — Edgerton broke open a tight game with a big middle-inning surge to defeat Wayne Trace 10-2 in a conference softball matchup on April 30.

The Bulldogs struck early, plating three runs in the first inning and adding another in the second for a 4-2 lead after two frames. Wayne Trace answered with single runs in both the first and second innings, but the Raiders' offense stalled the rest of the way.

Edgerton put the game out of reach in the fourth inning, scoring three runs, then erupted for seven more in the fifth to extend the margin to 10-2. Wayne Trace was unable to respond over the final innings.

Olivia Wallace earned the win in the circle for Edgerton, tossing a complete game. She allowed six hits and two runs

(one earned), while striking out eight and walking three.

Wayne Trace used Raegan McGarvey and Elly Rickard in the circle. McGarvey worked 2.2 innings, allowing one run on five hits. Rickard took the loss, giving up nine runs (six earned) on eight hits over 4.1 innings, striking out three and walking two.

At the plate, Edgerton collected 14 hits and was led by Ayden King, who went 3-for-5 with a double, home run, and three RBI. Ava Giesige also had a strong game, finishing 3-for-5 with three RBI, while Olivia Wallace added two hits and two RBI. Amelia Giesige and Ava Swank each contributed two hits as well.

Wayne Trace managed four hits in the contest. McGarvey led the Raiders with a 1-for-3 performance that included a home run and an RBI. Ad-dyson LaBounty also drove in a run, while Sam Williams and Raegan McGarvey each scored.

Edgerton finished with 10 runs on 13 hits and committed two errors, while Wayne Trace totaled two runs on four hits with five errors.

Score by Innings
Edgerton: 3 1 2 3 0 1 0 — 10 13 2
Wayne Trace: 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 — 2 4 5

AYERSVILLE EDGES ANTWERP IN EXTRA-INNING BATTLE



Antwerp junior Riley Smith smacks the ball and runs with all he has but just short of reaching first for the hit. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

ANTWERP — Ayersville used a late push in extra innings to slip past Antwerp 6-4 in an eight-inning baseball contest on April 28.

The Archers jumped out early, scoring twice in the first inning and adding two more in the third to take a 4-2 lead. Gage Clevinger scored twice in the effort, while Lucas Sproles and Luke Parrett each drove in a run.

Ayersville answered steadily, scoring single runs in the first and third innings before tying the game with a two-run fifth. The contest remained deadlocked through the seventh inning, sending the game into extras.

In the top of the eighth, Ayersville broke through with two runs to take a 6-4 lead, then held Antwerp scoreless in the bottom half to secure the win.

Jackson Stambaugh earned the victory in relief, delivering 3-2/3 innings of dominant pitching without allowing a hit while striking out five. Brock Hauenstein started for Ayersville, working 4-1/3 innings with nine strikeouts.

Parrett took the loss for Antwerp despite a strong outing, allowing no earned runs over five innings while striking out nine. Lucas Sproles pitched the final three innings in relief.

At the plate, Owen Lloyd

led Ayersville with a single and double, scoring once and driving in a run. Alex Sigler added a single, two runs, and an RBI, while Hauenstein scored twice.

Antwerp collected five hits on the day, including two from Parrett and singles from Clevinger, Sproles, and Jason McKay, but could not generate the key hit in the extra frame.

ANTWERP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS 2026 VANTAGE SCHOLARSHIPS

ANTWERP — The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce is proud to announce the recipients of the 2026 Antwerp Chamber Vantage Scholarships, recognizing two outstanding graduating seniors for their dedication, achievements, and commitment to their future careers. This year's recipients, Lyla Clem and Griffin Kosch, were each awarded \$500 to support their continued education and career development. Scholarships were presented during Antwerp High School's Senior Awards Night on April 29, 2026.



Lyla Clem

Lyla Clem, a Vantage cosmetology student, is the daughter of Regan and Lindsay Clem and holds a 3.615 GPA. Throughout her high school career, Clem has been actively involved in her community, volunteering at Riverside Christian Church where she assists with children's classes and youth group activities. She has also volunteered during Antwerp's Halloween hotdog giveaway and spends her summers working at Lake James Christian Camp in Angola, IN.

Clem plans to pursue a career in cosmetology by working in a salon, building a strong client base, and continuing her education through additional certifications. Looking ahead, she hopes to one day own her own salon. She has expressed a passion for working hands-on with clients and helping others feel confident and valued, emphasizing that cosmetology is about more than appearance—it is about connection and care.

Her Vantage instructor described Clem as an engaged and dedicated student who consistently gives her best effort. She serves as a student ambassador and will represent Antwerp in an upcoming international exchange. Known for her positive attitude and strong character, she has made a lasting impression

on both her peers and instructors.



Griffin Kosch

Griffin Kosch, a Vantage electricity student, is the son of Greta and Jeremy Kosch and maintains a 3.7 GPA. Kosch has developed a strong work ethic through hands-on experience working with his grandfather, Pudge Kennedy, at Kennedy Trenching & Excavating, as well as performing maintenance work at Maumee Cemetery. These experiences helped instill values of precision, responsibility, and respect.

Kosch has also been active in community service through Student Council initiatives, including village service projects and fundraising efforts for Christmas for Kids. Following graduation, he plans to attend a lineman academy in Milford, Ohio, before pursuing an apprenticeship with an electrical provider such as AEP or Paulding Putnam. His long-term goal is to earn his journeyman certification and become a highly skilled and dependable lineman.

Kosch chose the Vantage electrical program after being encouraged by his grandfather and discovering the opportunities available in the field. His instructor praised him as a natural leader who leads by example, earns the respect of his peers, and consistently demonstrates a positive attitude and strong work ethic. His ability to contribute meaningfully in both school and community settings sets him apart.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce Vantage Scholarship is designed to assist graduating Vantage Career Center seniors who reside in the Antwerp Local School District and maintain a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The scholarship provides reimbursement funds to help cover initial costs associated with tools, certifications, licensure, or further education in their chosen career field.

Funding for the scholarship is made possible through the annual Cutie Pie Contest, held each summer during the Day in the Park event at Riverside Veterans Memorial Park in Antwerp.

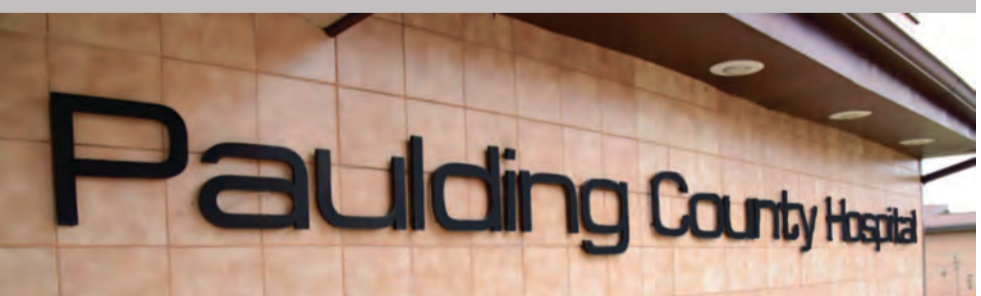
The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce congratulates Lyla Clem and Griffin Kosch on their achievements and looks forward to seeing their continued success in the years ahead.

NATIONAL NURSES WEEK
May 6-12, 2026

Thank You

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing 52 RN's and 10 LPN's at Paulding County Hospital.

Thank you for your care and compassion, you truly make a difference in the community!



we're not just bankers . . .

we're neighbors

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Payne, Ohio
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102 N. Main Street,
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Harlan, Indiana
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we're not just bankers . . .

RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

APRIL 2026

From the Superintendent's Desk ...

Hello Raider Nation! Exciting things are happening in our District! We met with the architects Munger & Munger and Alexander & Bebout, Inc. about the anticipated STEAM center project. Alexander & Bebout, Inc. will start working on the project in a few weeks and throughout the summer. We are anticipating it will be finished in early January 2027. There will be more information and updates on our web site at <https://www.waynetrace.org/>

Our school year is winding down quickly with our senior's last day being May 12th. Graduation ceremonies will be conducted in the high school gymnasium on May 17th, 2026, at 2:30 PM. All other students will finish up on May 28th, thus ending the 2025-26 school year.

Wayne Trace will be unveiling a new web site soon. When this goes live, I will send an alert out for your convenience so you can look at the new site and check it out. How we handle alerts will also be linked to this web site and we will be able to get alerts out more easily and on all of our platforms simultaneously.

I wish everyone in the Wayne Trace School District a safe and wonderful summer break. We will continue to get ready for next school year and look forward to another great year. Class of 2027, get ready for the best year yet!

From the Treasurer's Desk...

Did you know that Wayne Trace Local Schools has been awarded a Bus Safety Grant in the amount of \$44,000. These monies will be used to outfit the busses with LED lights, LED Stop Signs, and Crossing Arms. The grant will also pay for Touchdown 24/7 Security Software. All of these improvements will upgrade the safety of our students while traveling on the bus. The safety of our students is very important and the district



Payne Elementary's K & 3rd graders explore the life cycle of Chicks thanks to PC OSU Ext. Office.

is fortunate to have been awarded the State grant.

Grover Hill Building Update...

Our halls are buzzing with more than just the sound of spring; they are filled with collaboration, planning, and a commitment to student success. As the school year marches toward its final chapter, the latest Elementary Report highlights a series of triumphs and upcoming celebrations that define the "Raider" way.

The 6th-grade students recently stepped up as mentors for their "Kindergarten buddies." The older students curated book selections, designed custom sound effects for read-alouds, and even treated their younger peers to a live musical performance.

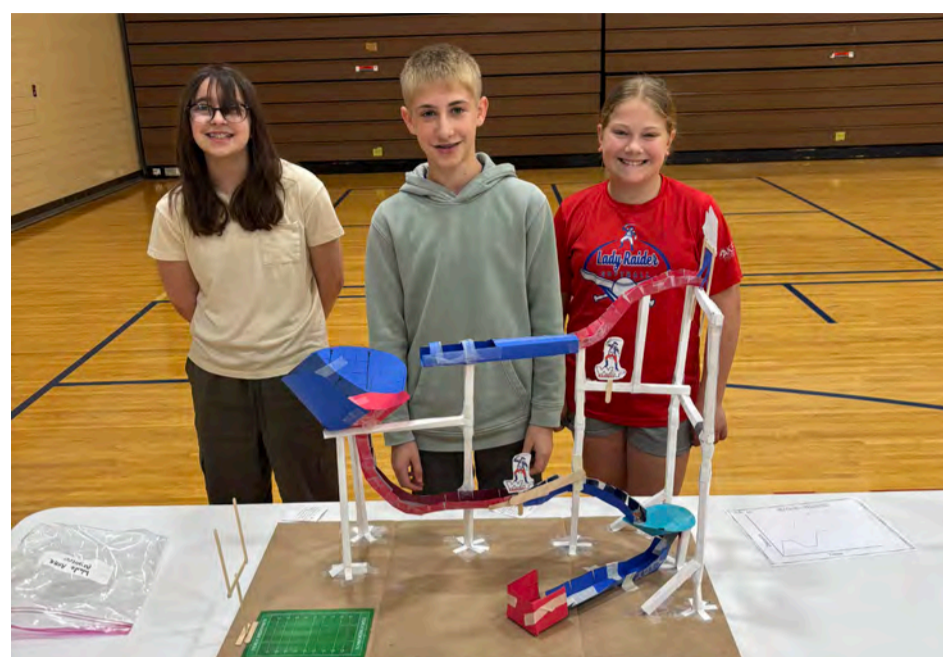
On the academic front, the Accelerated Reader (AR) Success program is thriving under the guidance of Mrs. Kathy Denny. Students are hitting quarterly goals at record rates, earning them the chance to shop at the coveted AR store.

Mark Your Calendars

- May 4th - 8th Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5th - Elementary Band Concert, 7pm
- May 21st - YMCA Day
- May 22nd - Kindergarten Celebration
- May 25th - Memorial Day - no school
- May 28th - Carnival Day & last day for students

Payne Building Update...

As we approach the end of the school year, there is a lot happening at Payne Elementary. Over the



Payne Elementary's Miss Miller's 6th graders created roller coasters using kinetic & potential energy.

past three weeks, our Kindergarten and Third Grade classes have been exploring the life cycle of a chick, thanks to the Paulding County Extension Office, which provided eggs and an incubator for hatching. Meanwhile, Miss Miller engaged our sixth graders in a hands-on lesson about kinetic and potential energy, where they created roller coasters and shared their findings with younger students. May is packed with field trips and activities as we wrap up the year; the last day for students is on May 28th. **Go Raiders!**

Jr/Sr High School Building Update...

Wayne Trace students and staff continue to stay busy this spring with a wide range of academic, extracurricular, and community-focused activities.

Staff participated in a two-hour delay professional development day on April 17, focusing on MTSS Tier 1 best practices and school safety procedures, including a lockdown drill.

The cross-categorical classroom's Brew Crew coffee cart continues to be a hit, with students gaining real-world experience while serving staff. Proceeds will support their annual field trip in May. The Art Department had their District Art Show on April 18, featuring student work from multiple courses, senior portfolios, and even alumni pieces. In the STEAM Center, students are creating nearly 100 new veterans banners while also collaborating on projects with local organizations and supporting senior graduation needs.

Career readiness remains a priority, as juniors and seniors re-

cently attended the Business, Industry, and College Expo, and juniors participated in a job shadow day. Students are also excelling academically and athletically. Engineering students achieved a 100% pass rate on their WebXams, and several athletes earned All-District and All-Ohio honors. The eSports program continues to grow, emphasizing teamwork and sportsmanship.

Student Council is preparing for Relay for Life on May 6, while community members supported students with state testing breakfasts during April. With state testing now complete and a packed calendar of events—including prom, graduation, and concerts—Wayne Trace is heading into the final stretch of a strong school year.

Some upcoming events below:

- May 2nd - NHS 5K Run
- May 2nd - State Band and Choir Competition
- May 6th - Relay for Life
- May 6th - Senior Awards 6pm HS gym
- May 9th - Prom
- May 14th - JH Music Concert
- May 17th - Graduation 2:30pm
- May 21st - HS Music Concert
- May 27th & 28th - Exams
- May 28th - Last day for students



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the Wayne Trace Local School District is to prioritize the philosophy of One District-One-Mission-One Vision. Wayne Trace is committed to educational excellence that will help all students achieve at their highest level and to graduate with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to become thinking, productive citizens in a changing global society, this is accomplished through a system which supports community values and integrates community, technology, and educational resources delivered in a safe environment by a caring staff.

THE LEFT TURN



Matt Lux No 5 won the USAC Midget Feature at Montpelier Speedway. Photo credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

28 USAC Midwest D2 Thunder Midgets showed up at Montpelier Speedway IN for the season opener. Congrats to Matt Lux, taking the feature win and ending the night in victory lane. At the start of the feature Matt drove from 7th to 1st. The lead did slip away for several laps until Matt gained it back just before the halfway mark. Lux held the lead through a late final lap caution and secured victory after the restart. Behind your winner was Kole Kirkman, Gunnar Lucius, Drew Rader and Bryce Massingill. Other winners at Montpelier Speedway Saturday, UMP Modifieds Dillon Nusbaum, Super Stocks Tony Anderson and Compacts Brian Isley. The USAC Midwest D2 Thunder Midgets will have a non-points race on May 2nd at Eldora Speedway.

Congratulations to race promoter Larry Boos. He was just named race director at the Mansfield Speedway. Larry runs the annual Rumble in Fort Wayne during the Christmas holidays. Over \$5,000,000.00 has been invested in the former NASCAR track at Mansfield. It's now a half mile dirt oval, featuring new lighting, grandstands, 1 million dollar jumbotrons and many updated changes. The track will run special races throughout the summer, motocross, nights of destruction and concerts. Mansfield Speedway is about 90 minutes

straight east of Delphos on US 30.

Thursday, April 23rd, racing great Larry Moore passed away in a Dayton nursing facility after an extended illness. Moore was one of the best to strap into a Dirt Late Model among many other types of race cars during his long career. The Hall of Fame Driver was the first three-time winner of Eldora's World 100 in 1979, 1981 and 1985. He started the prestigious race 12 times and finished 6 times on the podium. Moore won the Dirt Track World Championship in 1987 at Pennsboro Speedway in W. Va. He's still one of the sports winningest drivers and his career went into the 1990's with many track and series championships. Larry Moore was 83.

Saturday, April 25th history was made at the Bullring in Kokomo Indiana. Justin Grant tied a USAC NOS Energy Drink National Midget Record. He's now in an elite class of drivers. Just four drivers, Steve Lotshaw, Rich Vogler, Tony Stewart and now Justin Grant, have won 3 season openers in the series history. When it came time for the feature Saturday night, Zach Wigal former USAC D2 Thunder Midget Champion had the pole and Justin Grant last year's Kokomo Grand Prix winner was in P4. On lap 13 Wigal was leading but got caught up in lapped traffic and Grant used the high side of the track to pass and never looked

back. On the 30th and final lap Grant had a half track lead over Wigal. At the end of the only battle on the track was for the final spot on the podium. That went to Jacob Denney. He started the feature 19th and fought 30 laps to move into 3rd. The race had only two leaders, Wigal 1-12 and Grant 13-30. The night's fastest qualifier was Kevin Thomas Jr., 13.074.

The Midgets returned to Kokomo Speedway again Sunday, April 26th. Jacob Denney won the USAC Midget Feature, followed by his teammate Gavin Miller, Kevin Thomas Jr., Justin Grant and Jakeb Boxell;

The 350 Outlaw Supermodified Series announced Dick Meyers and Ram Engineering will be one of their sponsors in 2026. He's been a loyal supporter of the series, car owners and race teams.

The Great Lakes Super Trucks were set to open the 2026 Season Series on Friday, April 24th at Michigan's I-96 Speedway and unfortunately it was canceled because of the threat of bad weather. The race teams all stayed up north to compete the following night at Crystal Motor Speedway. Mother nature cooperated on Saturday for the lightning fast 360 Sprints. Fast time and a new track record was set by Zane Devault 11.930. There was no stopping him in the feature. He ended up in Victory Lane followed by 2nd Dustin Daggett 3rd Van Gurlley Jr., 4th Max Stambaugh and 5th Korbin Gurley. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

(Continued from Page 5)

be able to be scheduled to do automatically.

- Two of our three boilers in the high school are not functioning. The last one is already having issues and may not make it through the end of this heating season. There's no funding available to replace them and have heat next winter. The cost to replace them is about \$300,000.

- The roofs will last another few years before they need replacing. That will cost over \$1 million.
- Copper pipe is getting pin holes throughout and leaking, and 10+ year old repairs are starting to fail as well. Repair cost is unknown due to the unknown extent of the plumbing issues.

- The bleachers in the high school gym continue to have more and more needed repairs flagged on inspections. They don't open and close the way they are designed and are being forced open and closed. This will continue to wear out components and deteriorate the condition. Repairs have been made, but with the 45-year age, replacement would be prudent when resources allow. The estimated replacement cost is \$700,000 with \$125,000 received from 4 donations.

- The girls' softball and track teams have no place to change clothes for practice, games, or meets. They have to change at the high school and go to the athletic fields, change in a bathroom, or take turns in the boys' locker room with someone standing outside. Adding on to the current locker rooms isn't practical as it itself is in need of just as much work. Instead, a new locker room building is needed, estimated to cost \$2.3

PPEC OPERATION ROUND UP BOARD HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY IMPACT AT KIWANIS MEETING



At this week's Kiwanis meeting, members had the opportunity to hear from Jane Nice, Philip Rolsten, and Ken Kottenbrock, all board members of PPEC Operation Round Up. The speakers provided an overview of the program and highlighted its positive impact on local communities.

Operation Round Up allows cooperative members to

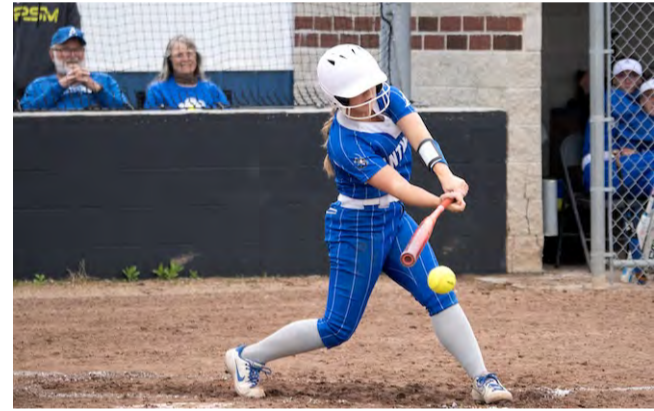
voluntarily round their monthly utility bills up to the nearest dollar. While each individual contribution is small, the combined total creates a significant fund that supports charitable and benevolent initiatives throughout the region.

The board members shared personal perspectives on how these funds have made a meaningful difference in the communities they serve. They

explained that the board meets monthly to review funding applications and thoughtfully determine how to allocate resources where they are needed most.

Kiwanis members appreciated the informative presentation and the opportunity to learn more about a program that continues to strengthen and support local communities.

WALDRON DOMINATES AS AYERSVILLE DEFEATS ANTWERP



Alia Clem, Sophomore is up to bat. She gets a ground hit to center and picks up first base! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

ANTWERP — A strong pitching performance from Kendra Waldron and a powerful offensive showing lifted Ayersville to an 8-2 victory over Antwerp in softball action on April 28.

Antwerp struck early, plating two runs in the bottom of the first inning to match Ayersville's opening frame and briefly tie the game at 2-2. Kara Pierce drove in both runs for the Archers, while Alia Clem and Allison Sproles each crossed the plate.

From there, Ayersville took control. The Pilots added a run in the third inning, then broke the game open with three runs in the fourth. Additional runs in the sixth and seventh innings helped secure the win.

Waldron was dominant in the circle for Ayersville, tossing a complete game while al-

lowing just three hits and two earned runs. She struck out 15 batters without issuing a walk, keeping Antwerp's offense in check after the first inning.

At the plate, Waldron also led the Pilots' offense, finishing with a single, triple, and home run, scoring twice and driving in four runs. Aerial Brown contributed a big day with three singles, a triple, and two runs scored. Danniella Coble added a home run and three RBIs, while several other Ayersville players recorded hits in a balanced 15-hit attack.

Clem took the loss for Antwerp, going the distance and recording four strikeouts.

Antwerp managed just three hits on the day, with singles coming from Clem, Haydyn Lengacher, and Pierce.

The Left Turn
Your Source For Tri-State Racing
Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt!
www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

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ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS

April 7 Antwerp Police Department was contacted by a local resident who had received papers from the municipal court and requested assistance in interpreting what the court order meant.

April 8 A resident reported that there was a door standing open at a residence on Main St. An officer responded, found the building unoccupied, and shut the door.

April 10 It was reported that the stop sign at the corner of Monroe and Daggett was no longer there. An officer responded and contacted utilities; A resident brought a handgun to the police department that had been found along the roadway. The handgun was secured and kept at the police department.

April 11 Antwerp Police

Department was contacted in reference to a low hanging wire at Sunoco. An officer responded, recognized it as a telecommunication wire, and contacted the company.

April 12 Antwerp Police assisted Antwerp EMS.

April 13 An officer was called to a residence on Stone St. in reference to adults arguing. The officer responded, spoke to all individuals, prepared a report, and forwarded it to the prosecutor; A resident of N. Main St. reported seeing tire tracks through his yard and wanted to document the incident; Antwerp Police Department received a report of a manhole cover off on Main St. near Wilcox. An officer responded and put the cover back on.

April 14 An officer stopped a vehicle on W. Canal for failing to stop at a stop sign. The driver was cited for failure to stop and driving under suspension.

April 15 Antwerp Police Department assisted Antwerp EMS; Antwerp Police Department received a request to unlock a vehicle.

April 16 Antwerp Police Department received a request for a golf cart inspection. The inspection was performed; Antwerp Police

Department received a call from a family member regarding an elderly individual who no longer has a driver's license.

April 17 A resident of Woodcox St. reported juveniles ringing her doorbell and running. An officer responded, located the juveniles, and requested they stop; An officer was requested to conduct a welfare check on a juvenile at Park Avenue Villas. The officer responded and located the juvenile.

April 18 A resident of Washington St. complained about juveniles playing loud music in the bank parking lot. An officer responded, spoke to the juveniles, and the music was turned down.

April 19 Antwerp Police were called to the cell tower on Canal St. where an equipment trailer had been broken into and several items were taken. The case is under investigation.

April 20 Antwerp Police Department received a report of an alleged assault that had occurred two days prior. An officer prepared a report and forwarded it to the prosecutor; An officer was requested to stand by while an individual removed belongings from a residence on Canal St; Antwerp Police Department received a report of a large black spring in the roadway on Canal St. near Erie. An officer responded and removed the spring.

April 21 Antwerp Police Department was notified about a counterfeit \$50 bill spent at Family Dollar. An officer responded and located the individual who had passed the bill.

April 22 Antwerp Police

Department received a warrant for an individual residing on W. Woodcox St.

April 23 Antwerp Police were contacted in reference to a motor vehicle accident in the school parking lot. An officer responded and prepared a report.

April 24 Antwerp Police Department was contacted regarding a male juvenile who had been sending inappropriate photos to someone he believed to be a female juvenile but was actually a male in Nigeria; Antwerp Police Department was called in reference to a child custody issue; Antwerp Police conducted a welfare check on an elderly male and determined all was fine Antwerp Police Department performed a golf cart inspection.

April 25 Antwerp Police were contacted by the Paulding County Sheriff's Office regarding a 911 hang-up call from the Antwerp ballpark. An officer responded and located the individual, who had called accidentally.

April 26 An officer assisted Antwerp EMS; Antwerp Police Department was called in reference to a child custody issue.

April 28 An officer re-

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of County Commissioners for Paulding County, Ohio, will hold a public hearing to discuss the potential vacation of a township road located in Washington Township: "Jackson & Water Street - Village of Hamer." This hearing is in accordance with Ohio Revised Code §5553.045. It will take place at 10:30 a.m. on May 27, 2026, in the office of the Board of Paulding County Commissioners, located at 451 McDonald Pike, Paulding, OH 45879.

Heather Barnhouse, Clerk,
BY ORDER:
BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

Mike Weible, Lisa McClure, Mark Holtsberry

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 SECOND PUBLIC HEARING

Date of Publication: May 4, 2026

Defiance County, lead entity of the Maumee Valley South CHIP Consortium (MVSCC), a housing partnership of Defiance County, Paulding County and the City of Defiance, intends to apply to the Ohio Department of Development/Office of Community Enhancements (OCE), for funding under the Community Housing Impact & Preservation (CHIP) Program, a federally funded program administered by the State of Ohio. The Consortium is eligible for \$1,150,000 of Program Year 2026 CHIP funding provided the Consortium meets the applicable program requirements. On January 22, 2026, Defiance County (the lead agency of the Consortium) conducted a first public hearing; on January 13, 2026 the City of Defiance conducted a first public hearing; on January 6, 2026 Paulding County conducted a first public hearing. The hearings were to inform citizens about programs available to the area as outlined in the State of Ohio Consolidated Plan. Funding for programs administered by OCD are provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, HOME Investment Partnerships Program, Ohio Housing Trust Fund (OHTF) and other funding sources as identified by the State of Ohio.

Based on citizen input and local officials' assessment of area-wide needs, the Consortium is proposing to undertake the following CHIP activities for Program Year 2026. These activities will benefit low to moderate income persons.

Activity	Amount	Units	Source of Funds
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	\$713,000	9	HOME/CDBG
Owner-Occupied Home Repair	\$299,000	14	CDBG/OHTF
Administration & Fair Housing	\$138,000		HOME/CDBG
Total	\$1,150,000		Program Income
Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation	\$61,771	1	HOME/CDBG

Second public hearings will be held as follows:

Monday, May 18, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. in the Defiance County Commissioner's Chambers, 25600 Eliott Rd, Defiance, OH 43512

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. in the Paulding County Commissioner's Office, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E, Paulding OH 45879.

The public hearing gives citizens the opportunity to review and comment on the above proposed activities. Citizens are encouraged to attend any or all of the meetings listed above to express their views and comments on the Maumee Valley South CHIP Consortium Program application. If a participant will need auxiliary aids (interpreter, brail, or taped materials, listening device, other) due to a disability, please contact Maumee Valley Planning Organization prior to the meeting date at 419-784-3882 to ensure that your needs will be accommodated. The Defiance and Paulding County Commissioner's Chambers are handicapped accessible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HOSPITAL BOARD POSITION

Applications will be accepted at the Paulding County Commissioners' Office, 451 McDonald Pike, Suite E Paulding, Ohio, until 4:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2026, for one position, as Paulding County Hospital Trustee for a term expiring March, 2028.

Applications may be picked up in the Commissioners' Office for this position between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Previous applicants must reapply.

Heather Barnhouse, Clerk,
BY ORDER:
BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

Mike Weible, Lisa McClure, Mark Holtsberry

NOTICE

VILLAGE OF PAYNE

Change of Meeting Date

The original Council meeting date of May 25th at 7:00 PM for Village of Payne Council is **CANCELED.**

Next Village of Payne Council meeting will on **June 8th, 2026 at 7:00 PM** at the Village Hall.

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. CI-26-084

To: Alfredo Sanchez Ruiz

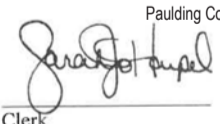
You are hereby notified that you have been named as a Defendant in a Complaint for Divorce filed in Paulding County Common Pleas Court entitled Tiffany M Sanchez Ruiz, Plaintiff vs. Alfredo Sanchez Ruiz, Defendant.

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 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.


 Clerk

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 sizes 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

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds
2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW
3rd Weekend- Payne ,
(Paved lot east of Homier's)
4th Weekend- Antwerp ,
(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month
Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)
Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)
Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)
Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

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

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

The State Bank & Trust Company, Plaintiff,
vs.
Justice M. J. Clark, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 084

Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

101 W. Canal Street, Antwerp,
Parcel Number: 12-26S-032-00, 12-26S-034-00 & 12-26S-043-01

A full legal description of this property is on record at the Paulding County Recorder's Office located in the Courthouse or at: www.uslandrecords.com

Said premises appraised at One Hundred Fourteen Thousand and NO/100 (\$114,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the May 28, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffssaleauction.ohio.gov>.

Registration and deposits must be completed at least one week before the date of sale.

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on June 11, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

The appraisal of this property was completed without an interior inspection. Neither the Sheriff's Office nor the appraisers are responsible for the condition of the property at the time the purchaser takes possession.

Purchasers are advised they have no legal right to access this property until the Sheriff's Deed has been filed with the Paulding County Recorder's Office.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

The successful bidder will have Thirty (30) days from the sale date to obtain an examination of title at their expense, if so desired. Should such examination disclose the title to be unmarketable by any defect in the court proceedings or the existence of any outstanding interest rendering the title unmarketable, the successful bidder has Thirty (30) days to file a written motion requesting the sale be set aside. If the court finds the title unmarketable, the court will refuse to confirm the sale or fix a reasonable time, not to exceed Ninety (90) days, within which the defect of title may be corrected.

Taxes shall be prorated to the date of the sale and paid from the sale proceeds.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com
Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

CHP HOME CARE & HOSPICE RECEIVES GRANT FOR CHILDREN'S GRIEF CAMP



Congratulations to CHP Home Care & Hospice for receiving a \$1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094, who holds a fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella. This grant will be used for Grief Camp for children.

Pictured with the grant are (l-r) Laurie Hockenberry - CHP LSW and Stacy McCartney- Moose Lodge Administrator.

STRAIGHT LINE OUTDOOR JOINS AS FIRST-TIME SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



2026 Gala Bronze Sponsor: Straight Line Outdoor

Pictured (l-r) Chelsie Schroeder - DAF Marketing Director with Brooke and Dan Bostelman - Straight Line Outdoor Co-Owners

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) is proud to announce that Straight Line Outdoor has joined as a first-time Bronze Sponsor for the 2026 Gala with a contribution of \$2,000.

This sponsorship supports the Foundation's annual Gala, scheduled for October 3, 2026, which raises funds for the Defiance County Community Fund. This fund provides grants to local nonprofits, schools, and community organizations working to meet the needs of the community.

The Defiance Area Foundation extends its appreciation to Straight Line Outdoor for joining this year's event and supporting the mission of building a stronger community through generosity.

(Continued from Page 9)

responded to a motor vehicle accident on S. Main St. near Daggett involving a vehicle and a bicycle.

April 29 An officer was called to the Antwerp Post Office regarding an individual sleeping inside. The officer spoke with the individual, who left without incident; An

officer was called to a residence on S. Main St. regarding juveniles being threatened by an adult.

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

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

David A. Snyder of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$565 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Snyder was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and received an operator's license suspension from February 3, 2026, through February 3, 2027. Special conditions include the option to attend a Driver Intervention Program in lieu of three days in jail, vacation of the administrative license suspension, placement on standard probation, completion of an evaluation at Westwood, securing a valid operator's license, completion of 20 hours of community service, completion of an online course with probation, a risk assessment, and proof of insurance. A related charge of failure to control was dismissed.

Ronald R. Chelecki of Fredonia, New York, was convicted of a permit violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Destiny P. Hostettler of Defiance, Ohio, had a charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension dismissed. In a related case, Hostettler entered a no contest plea and was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Mahamat A. Soumaine of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of a highway use tax violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Darcy M. Shepherd of Edon, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Christine Branham of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Nicholas A. Hamlett of Cleveland, 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 \$105 in court costs. Special conditions include recall of a warrant block. In related cases, Hamlett was also convicted of improper display of plates and was fined \$100, and of speeding and was fined \$45.

Melissa Crowder of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. She was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$153 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

Atif Khan of Ajax, Ontario, was convicted of a marked lanes violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Luis J. Aguilar Sanchez of Bluffton, Indiana, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Jonathan Chimal Lopez of Indianapolis, Indiana, was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. A related speeding charge was dismissed.

Alexis Bonjour of Huntertown, Indiana, was convicted

APRIL TRAPSHOOT A SUCCESS FOR PAULDING FFA!



Members of the Paulding FFA trapshooting team left to right Remington Boroff, Owen Workman, Nolan Schlatter, Jim Hoops, Lily Leatherman, Harley Troyer, Kendall Kohart, and Karlee Kohart.

By: Makenna Manz, Paulding FFA Reporter

On Saturday, April 18th, eight Paulding FFA members came out to participate in the April trapshoot at the Paulding Fish and Game Center.

This was the seventh trapshoot of the school year. Troy Zeller from the Paulding Fish and Game club reviewed safety and the event rules with members before they received their equipment.

Contestants grabbed earplugs, safety glasses, and their firearms to compete in the contest. At the range, contestants are then separated

into different squads where they will rotate through 5 different shooting positions.

Members competing were Nolan Schlatter, Owen Workman, Remington Boroff, Karlee Kohart, Kendall Kohart, Lily Leatherman, and Harley Troyer. Remington Boroff won the plaque sponsored by our FFA Chapter, shooting a 37 out of 50, and Harley Troyer came in 2nd. Jim Hoops was also able to stop by and watch the kids trapshoot.

Remington said his favorite part of trap shooting is the thrill you get when you see the clay shatter. His advice to other members is to try to

use a gun that you are comfortable using, along with the same exact ammo every time, and to practice with the same setup you plan to use. After some time, it will become muscle memory, and you will know exactly where to lead your targets. Harley said that her favorite part of trapshooting is being able to shoot stuff, and the advice she would give is to hold your head high, even if you don't get a good score.

We would like to thank the Fish and Game Club and its members for all their help and support for the Paulding FFA program.

of speeding. She was fined \$45 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. In a related case, Bonjour was also convicted of a seat belt violation while driving and was fined \$30.

Mohammed Golam Sharif Bin Mab of Buffalo, New York, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension, non-financial responsibility. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. In a related case, he was also convicted of speeding and was fined \$45.

Gabriel Sanchez of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failing to stop for a school bus. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Mystie M. Dollarhite of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of driving while texting. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Dawnja S. Fuentes of Van Wert, Ohio, was convicted of domestic violence. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$425 in court costs. Fuentes was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 24 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of fines and costs from bond posted, placement on standard probation, completion of an evaluation, no unlawful contact with the victim, completion of 10 hours of community service, a risk assessment, and completion of the Keeping It in Check class.

Miguel A. Zacarias of Cecil, Ohio, entered a joint plea and was convicted of domestic violence. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$481.50 in court costs. Zacarias was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement on standard probation, no contact with the victim, completion of 40 hours of community service, completion of a mental health or anger management evaluation and treat-

ment, completion of the Keeping It in Check class, a risk assessment, and seeking employment.

Gene D. Garza III of Toledo, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Robert A. Scott of Oakwood, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$183 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs.

Kelly J. Scott of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of disorderly conduct. She was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$184 in court costs. Special conditions include maintaining general good behavior and payment of all fines and costs.

Michael B. McMonigal of Continental, Ohio, was convicted of driving under suspension, non-financial responsibility. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include showing proof of insurance and release of the

surety bond.

Shawn Spencer of Defiance, Ohio, had a charge of driving under suspension, operator's license forfeiture, administrative dismissed. He was ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Spencer Lyons of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of improper backing. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Mahogany N. Donaldson of Saint Louis, Missouri, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving and was fined \$30.

AUGLAIZE VILLAGE TO HOST SETTLERS' ENCAMPMENT & HISTORICAL TIMELINE

DEFIANCE, OH — AuGlaize Village will present its annual Settlers' Encampment & Historical Timeline Event from May 15-17, 2026, offering visitors a chance to experience life across multiple eras spanning 1763 through 2021.

The three-day event invites

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

Saturday, May 9th, 2026
Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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North American Salt Company

quests to step back in time and explore how settlers and communities survived during different historical periods. Demonstrations throughout the weekend will highlight essential daily activities, including plant dyeing, food preparation, the fur trade, period weapons, and camp life unique to each era.

Living history interpreters will be on site portraying notable figures and groups, including the Robinson Battery of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, and Anthony Wayne. A sched-

uled appearance by Frederick Douglass has been cancelled due to a health issue.

Friday, May 15, will be designated as School Day.

AuGlaize Village is also welcoming period vendors and reenactors to participate in the event.

For additional information, contact 419-990-0107 or by email at villageauglaize@gmail.com. More details at auglaizevillage.com. The event will be held at AuGlaize Village, 12296 Krouse Road, Defiance, Ohio.

WHAT A BUMMER!



By: James Neuhouser

May is here and it's colder than billy. As I write May will be here this week and it's 57°. This week there is a high of 51° several days and the day the West Bend News comes out it is supposed to be a high of 66, then back into the '50s for the first full week of May.

I have written before that spring is my favorite time of the year but this is ridiculous. I don't know if this is winter or winter. Just seems to put a damper on the entire thing. I love the month of May and in Indiana it is capped off by the Indy 500.

This morning I heard reports of a certain percentage of corn already planted and a certain percentage already up. My son and I have a saying, when the corn is up, Christmas is not far behind. The corn grows then it is harvested and then Christmas. I always considered May 10th to be frost-free and I could plant tomatoes. Everything is early this year, but we could have a late frost.

I always look at the 10-day forecast, and they are surprisingly accurate even most times to the degree. It says May 1st and 2nd as a low up 32°. Didn't think it would frost

that late. I forgot to check for rain. It shows of possibility of rain Wednesday and Thursday, number 6&7.

It seems our weather is wacky doodle, and it started in my lifetime. My dad was a truck farmer and in the '70s or '80s, (1970's), I thought I would try my hand at raising a crop of sweet corn and taking it to market. You heard the saying if it rains on Easter it rains for 7 Sundays. Well that year that it was gospel. I planted every Saturday and it pounded it in every Sunday. I never got a decent stand no matter how much I rotay hoed. So much for being a truck farmer.

But seriously it seems like we've had a wet fall, goofy spring or fall, every year since that time. Before that it seemed like we had pretty decent weather. The trouble with spring is it goes by too quickly. You've heard the saying. It just seems like the time flies by, but in a way it just keeps going on and on.

Seems like you plan something months ahead, and before you know it it is here and gone. A wise first grade teacher gave my grandson the assignment of having his grandparents write a letter to

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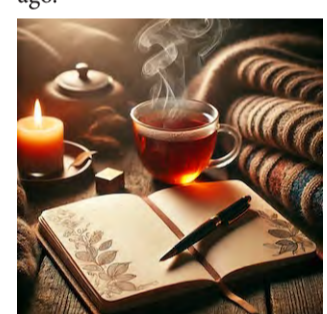
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DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON!

be opened on his 19th birthday. The letter was written but completely forgotten until we tore down an old bookcase and found it. It was opened this year on his 20th birthday. So many memories in a time much different than 14 years ago.



"CANDLES ARE GOOD FOR YOU"

Dotting my Teas By: Marlene Oxender

When it comes to birthdays, my mother was someone who saw the value in celebrating them. She wanted a cake in front of her birthday person. Her kitchen cupboards were well stocked with cake mixes and birthday candles.

When we're a child, a birthday celebration is fun. We sit still and listen to the birthday song while all eyes are on us. When they're finished singing, we lean forward and blow out the candles in one big breath.

But then we grow up and things change. We tend to make it through the singing of those four sentences with a smile on our face; it always helps when children are around. We may feel a few moments of awkwardness, but it's likely the only time in our life when we'll hear our name in music.

If only the rest of life were set to music. If only we'd hear well-wishes sung into the air an additional 364 times per year. What words would they choose to sing to us?

Instead of an alarm clock, it'd be great if someone sang a few words about it being time to wake up. Like they do in a musical, it'd be more pleasant to hear about the beautiful morning we're about to experience.

My mother used to wake us

up in the morning by opening the stairway door, standing at the bottom of the staircase, and yelling the words: "It's time to get up." She did a lot of things right in her life, but this was not one of them. After she hollered that it was time to get up, she'd pick one or more of her children's names and holler again, letting us know it was time to crawl out of bed.

My younger brother Stevie, who had Down syndrome, was happy most of the time. When he stayed overnight at our house, he was often the first one up and about in the morning. When he was ready for the rest of the family to get out of bed, he tried using logic on us. He'd remind us that if we didn't get out of bed, we didn't get to go to work. His words became an inside joke.

Each year when spring rolled around, he was glad to flip the page of his wall calendar. Like most of us, he looked forward to mild weather and the chance to be on his bicycle once again. Springtime meant he'd be able to tell others his birthday was "coming up."

The first day of April also meant there would be intentional misrepresentation of the truth. Stevie and his friends were already good at pointing out the nonsensical things in this world. They were skilled pranksters who knew how to make someone think they've got one more problem to deal with - a problem that'll go away as soon as someone says, "April Fool's." If only our problems could disappear so easily the other 364 days of the year.

If you've visited Stevie's Facebook page, you've likely seen at least one video where he was being teased about skipping his birthday party this year. He knew it was a joke yet gladly joined in the debate about how we'd be spending his birthday. There was laughter as he stuck to the seriousness of the topic.

He also let me know there'd be cake and ice cream. He argued that candles are good for you. He knew there'd be a mailbox full of birthday cards and people showing up with gifts in hand.

Most of us would agree we

learned a few things from Stevie - like how good it feels to live in the moment. To just hang out. To not take things so seriously. To remind others that candles are good for you.

And now that Stevie is no longer physically here on earth, he's let me know there's such a thing as an angelic prankster. He lets me know he's still with me.

He'd celebrated 54 birthdays on earth, so we know there were at least 54 times he'd sat with a cake in front of him. There was no question about how he'd be celebrating his big day. There'd be cake and ice cream. There'd be a song to sing and candles to light. There'd be applause.

Life gives us plenty of gifts. But choosing to have fun - that's our gift back to the world.

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

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

(Continued from Page 8)

tion out to the state minimum of two miles from each of the Paulding and Oakwood campuses. This would affect 386 students in K-6th grade. Increased student fees, increased lunch pricing, and Pay to Participate of up to \$400 per student for school-wide extracurricular programs. Organizational consolidation is also something being looked at.

Asking for Permanent Improvement money restricts the tax dollars to only going towards Permanent Improvement projects. The board recognizes the need to "live within your means" and is not asking for operating money, only Permanent Improvement money to maintain what is already here, improve equality in locker room access, and more efficiently use tax dollars.

Sincerely,
 The Paulding Exempted Village Schools Board of Education

—Karen Saxton, President
 Joe Manz, Vice President
 Matt Stoller
 Nicole Den Herder
 Julie Arend

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Deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026

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To view the full posting and please visit <https://www.vantagecareercenter.com/Employment.aspx>

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HELP WANTED

WATER DEPARTMENT - VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE

The Village of Hicksville is accepting applications and resumes for a fulltime water department laborer. Applicants for the position should possess a valid OEPA Class 1 water license or receive the license within eighteen months of the date of hire, a class B CDL license must be obtained within six months of hire.

Responsibilities include maintenance and repair of lines, meter readings, operation and repair of equipment, monitoring plant gauges, feeders along with treatment process and laboratory procedures.

Applications are available at Village of Hicksville Municipal Building or download the application at: www.villageofhicksville.com.

Completed application and resume can be sent to: Village Administrator, 111 South Main St., Hicksville, OH 43526.

THE VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE IS AN E.O.E

Village of Payne's
GARAGE SALES
May 28-31

Registration forms are available at Village Hall at 119 N Main St., Payne, OH 45880. OR use link on our Facebook Page: Village of Payne

Yard Sale

All registrations must be turned in by May 20th to be included on the map. Maps will be available May 27th at the Payne Marathon Gas station and The Ritual Coffee.

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Sat. May 9th • 8am - 3pm

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 Lunch will be served with carry outs available.

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PAULDING COUNTY PLANTS HERITAGE TREE TO MARK AMERICA 250 CELEBRATION



Paulding County Commissioners and Paulding FFA members pose with the Heritage Tree that was planted on the PC Courthouse lawn on April 29, 2026 in observance of America 250 celebration.



PAULDING - Paulding County officially joined Ohio's America 250 celebration with the planting of its Heritage Tree on the courthouse lawn on Wednesday, April 29, 2026. The event brought together Paulding FFA Chapter officers, Paulding County Commissioners, and community leaders as they planted a white oak tree—part of a statewide initiative to place one Heritage Tree in each of Ohio's 88 counties. The program honors

Ohio's role in the nation's founding while encouraging communities to preserve their local history and invest in future generations.

Anna Gurney of the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District played a key role in coordinating the planting and organizing the ceremony, helping ensure the event reflected both the county's heritage and its forward-looking spirit.

A highlight of the ceremony was the soil presentation conducted by FFA students. Soil collected from meaningful locations across Paulding County—including farms, schools, parks, and other significant sites—was brought together and poured at the base of the newly planted tree. The act symbolized the county's shared roots and its continued growth into the future.

The white oak, designated

as Paulding County's Heritage Tree, stands as a lasting tribute to the community's past, present, and future. The planting marks the beginning of local efforts to commemorate America 250, with additional events, celebrations, and projects expected to take place throughout the coming months.

HICKSVILLE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE PREPARES FOR ANNUAL MOTHER'S DAY PLANT EVENT

The Hicksville Beautification Committee is busy finalizing plans for their Mothers' Day Plant Event, to be held on Friday and Saturday, May 8 and 9. Again this year, the sale will be held in the Multipurpose Building at the Defiance County Fairgrounds. Masses of locally grown flowering annuals, vegetables, and perennials

will be available in flats, individual pots, hanging baskets, and planters.

The Committee continues to use Auburn, Indiana's Garden Gate plus Kircher's in Defiance to provide a wide selection of plants for this event. This year, there will also be a special selection of air plants for sale.

The popular Planting Service will again be available and those interested are encouraged to bring their own planters or purchase one at the event.

An important feature of this annual event is the chance to learn about gardening, in general, and the uses of specific plants, in particular. Experienced gardeners are available throughout the sale to answer questions and also provide additional gardening resources, if desired.

Although the Beautification Committee was originally formed in 1988, for many years it was a one-person operation with Lila Lee Wittig doing most of the planting and maintenance of community flowerbeds. In 2004, the Committee reorganized as part of the Hicksville Community Service Center, and additional volunteers were recruited. Each year, the Committee has expanded the village plantings and also looked at other ways to make Hicksville more attractive. All of the proceeds from this annual Mother's Day plant sale, which began in 2006, will be used to fund village plantings, plus other special beautification projects.

For more information about the plant sale, please call the Hicksville Community Service Center.

WAYNE TRACE ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW STEAM CENTER



Wayne Trace STEAM student, Jaxon Cook, showing the Robotics programing during the Public Meeting on Wednesday, April 29th.

Wayne Trace Local Schools is moving forward with plans to construct a new STEAM Center addition, giving students more space and opportunities for hands-on learning in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. During a community meeting, School Board President Mr. Sinn said the idea grew out of earlier community discussions about the district's future. After a previous levy proposal failed, the district listened to feedback from residents who encouraged the school to use funds already available rather than seek new taxes.

Teacher Angie Stokes, who leads visual design and CTE programming, explained that the STEAM Center will allow students to apply classroom knowledge through real-world projects, including design, engineering, robotics, video production, laser engraving, CNC work, 3D printing and other hands-on experiences.

Stokes said the program has already received strong support through grants, including more than \$2.4 million from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce. She said the district has seen high student in-

terest, with some students unable to get into classes because of limited space.

The planned addition will include three classroom spaces, engineering and robotics areas, production space, improved access for agriculture and design classes, restrooms with outside access for athletic events, and areas for community programs. The district also hopes to eventually offer evening classes and other community learning opportunities.

Officials said the maximum construction price is about \$2.771 million, with the full project cost expected to be around \$4 million when soft costs are included. The district plans to use grant funding and money already set aside for facilities work, meaning no new taxes will be requested for the project.

Construction is expected to begin with a soft start in May, with more visible work beginning in early June. The project is expected to be completed around late December or January, allowing expanded class offerings for the 2027-28 school year. Watch here:



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