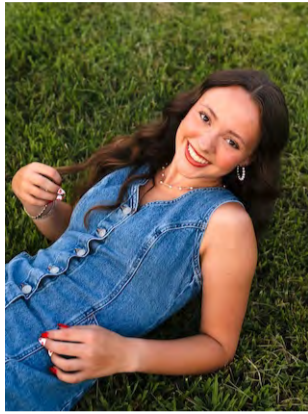


## CLASS OF 2026 TOP SCHOLARS

### Antwerp High School:



Antwerp Local School's Class of 2026 recognizes **Leigha Doster** as one of their Top Scholars. She graduates with a 3.986 GPA. Leigha is the daughter of Wendy Doster and plans to attend Purdue Fort Wayne to major in Elementary Education. Leigha said she has always enjoyed working with children and was inspired by her aunt, who teaches first grade. During high school, she participated in Cross Country for six years, Track for six years, Cheer for three years, and National Honor Society for two years. Her honors and recognitions included Honor Roll status with a GPA between 3.67 and 4.0, Top Student in AP Biology, Student of the Quarter, and a \$2,000 scholarship from Purdue Fort Wayne. Outside of school, Leigha enjoys running, baking, spending time outdoors, hanging out with friends, and shopping. Her most memorable high school experience was qualifying for regionals during her senior year with the girls cross country team and sharing one final race together with her teammates.



Antwerp Local School's Class of 2026 recognizes **Raelynne Zuber** as one of their Top Scholars. She graduates with a 3.961 GPA. Raelynne is the daughter of Ryan and Amber Zuber and plans to attend Ohio University to major in Nutrition Sciences/Pre-Physician Assistant. Raelynne hopes to become a physician assistant so she can help people recover and improve their everyday lives. Throughout high school, she earned numerous honors including Student of the Quarter awards in World History, English, Pre-Calculus, and Principal's Student of the Quarter; Most Improved awards in Softball and Cross Country; Top English Student honors in 2023 and 2024; Top Chemistry Student; Rotary Award for Cross Country; GMC Honorable Mention Cross Country; Cheerleading Leadership Award; Coaches Awards in Softball and Cheerleading; Honor Roll all four years; All-Ohio Outstanding Student Leader; Four Year Academic Excellence Award; AP Statistics Top Student; Quill and Scroll Award; Diploma with Honors; and the Scholar Ath-

lete Award. Raelynne was highly involved in school activities, serving as a Student Council Representative for four years, participating in National Honor Society as a junior and serving as vice president her senior year, and working with Student Technology Services for four years. She also participated in Varsity Competition Cheer, Varsity Basketball Cheer, Varsity Softball, Varsity Cross Country, and Junior Varsity Volleyball, while volunteering for Special Needs Summer T-ball, the SpongeBob Musical technology crew, and performing as Grandma in The Addams Family High School Musical. She also participated in Fellowship of Christian Athletes all four years. Her community service included volunteering at Literacy Night and the School Book Fair for four years, trail maintenance with the Paulding Soil and Water District, Student Council Service Day projects, Antwerp Pharmacy promotion videos, Mini Archer camps in volleyball, cheer, and cross country, the Veteran's Memorial Video, the Class of 2025 Graduation Video, cancer fundraiser events, blood drives, and National Honor Society Christmas for Kids shopping. Raelynne also worked as a tumbling instructor at MAC Gym from 2022-2026 and served as Student Technology Services Student Manager from 2022-2026. Her most memorable high school experience was becoming part of the first girls cross country team in school history to win the GMC title and the first team to qualify for regionals since 2011.



Antwerp Local School's Class of 2026 recognizes **Hampton Jon Rogge** as one of their Top Scholars. He graduates with a 3.959 GPA. Hampton is the son of TJ and Diana Hammer and Brett Rogge and plans to attend University of Saint Francis to major in Biology/Pre-Physician Assistant. Hampton chose the field because he enjoys working in a team-based environment and hopes to expand healthcare access in his community while promoting wellness and preventative medicine in rural and underserved areas. Hampton was active in numerous extracurricular activities including Student Council, National Honor Society, Varsity Football, Varsity Basketball, Varsity Baseball, and

Varsity Track and Field. His honors included Top Student awards in Algebra I, Geometry, and Biology I; Student of the Quarter; Highest Honor Roll all four years; University of Findlay Dean's List recognition; University of Findlay College Credit Plus Student of the Year; Academic A Award; Antwerp Scholar Athlete honors; GMC Scholar Athlete; Basketball Most Improved Player; Basketball Coaches Award; District 7 Honorable Mention in Basketball; District 7 All Academic Team; Football Coaches Award; GMC Second Team Defensive Back honors; Prom Attendant; and Homecoming Attendant. He also earned the Franklin B. Walters Scholarship, the University of Saint Francis Trustees' Scholarship, Legacy Grant, Out of State Grant, Governor's Merit Scholarship, JP Crain Scholarship, and the VFW Post 5087 Scholarship. Hampton contributed to the community through Fall Festival volunteering, Student Technology Services, PASS, raking leaves for community members, Christmas for Kids, coaching Mini Archers Basketball, and coaching Flag Football. His leadership roles included serving as National Honor Society Secretary and as captain of both the football and basketball teams. Hampton also gained work experience through Student Technology Services, Friend Flooring, and as the Antwerp volleyball announcer. Outside of school, he enjoys fishing, working for his grandfather and uncle at Friend Flooring, going to the movies, and spending time with friends. His most memorable high school experience was setting the school record for passing yards in a football game during his junior year against Ayersville.

**Hicksville High School:** Hicksville Local School recognizes **Kennedy Christine Adams** as the Class of 2026



Valedictorian. Kennedy is the daughter of John and Heather Adams of Hicksville and plans to attend Black Hawk College to study General Science. Throughout her academic career, Kennedy earned Honor Roll recognition from 2014 to the present, was named a High School Scholar Athlete from 2023 to the present, and received the 2021 Essential Ace award. Kennedy has been active in numerous extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, where she currently serves as Treasurer, and Student Council, where she currently serves as Secretary and Treasurer. She has also participated in Volleyball from 2017-2025, Basketball from 2016-2026, Softball from 2015 to the present, and Travel Softball from 2019 to the present. Kennedy also earned an athletic scholarship to continue her education and athletic career at Black Hawk College.

(Continued on Page 6)

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

## Community Calendar

**TUE & WED**

- Antwerp Comm. Food Pantry @ Antwerp GMC, 9a-12p

**May 12**

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- Nature Conservancy Open House @ Black Swamp Nature Center, Paulding, 5:30p

**May 13**

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

**May 14**

- Senior Bingo Luncheon @ Oakwood Library, 11:30a

**May 15**

- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & America 250 Amrize Open House @ Amrize, Paulding, 10a-3p

**May 15-17**

- Settlers' Encampment & Historical Timeline Event @ AuGlaize Village

**May 16**

- Spring Fling @ Courthouse Square, Bryan, 10a-3p

**May 18**

- Adult Bingo Luncheon @ Paulding Library, 11a

**May 19**

- PC Heath & Wellness Connection Meeting @ Antwerp Manor, 8:30-10:45a

**May 20**

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



Add your event to the calendar [info@westbendnews.net](mailto:info@westbendnews.net)

**★ ★ THANK YOU ★ ★**

**FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR  
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*-Mike Iler*

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# WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY ANNOUNCES APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Payne Elementary Student's of the Month for April. These students were chosen for demonstrating the character value 'Perseverance'. Picture above are (front row) Willow Cubbage, Colton Linder, Paisley Coutts, Adryan Shaw, Benson Hitchcock, Manuel Negrete Pawoli, Charlie Hartzler, Cattleya Carmona Molina, Waylon Stoller, Monroe Taylor, and Thea Keys; (back row) Peyton Osbun, Kailynn Blankenship, Laylah Robertson, Natalie Zartman, Evander Neff, Dylainee Carr, Bryleigh Wieland, Raylynn Gerardot, Landon Sherry, and Gabriel DeWaard. Not Pictured: Brea Moore.

## TEMPLE OF PRAISE FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FROM DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE #2094



Congratulations to Temple of Praise for receiving a \$1,000 grant in April from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 who holds a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant will be

used for their Food Pantry in Defiance County.

Pictured with the grant check are Ruben Laguna, Reverend of Temple of Praise and Audrey Lynn Roth, Chaplain of Defiance Moose Lodge.

## JOIN THE NATURE CONSERVANCY'S FREE EVENT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BLACK SWAMP NATURE CENTER

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Ohio is hosting an open house to share updates and collect community members' input about natural infrastructure work at the Black Swamp Nature Center.

The project includes restoring wetlands and floodplain habitat and converting former sugar beet ponds to better capture and filter floodwater from Flatrock Creek. The increased floodwater storage at the Nature Center will improve the community's climate resilience during high-intensity storms. TNC is working with the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District and Paulding County Commissioners with funding from H2Ohio and the Great

Lakes Restoration Initiative.

The public is invited to hear an update on the design phase of the project, which is about 30% complete, and share ideas during the meeting.

Black Swamp Nature Center Project Update, Open to the Public; The Nature Conservancy of Ohio; 5:30 pm ET, Tuesday, May 12; 753 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879

The Nature Conservancy is a global conservation organization dedicated to conserving the lands and waters on which all life depends. Guided by science, we create innovative, on-the-ground solutions to our world's toughest challenges so that nature and people can thrive together. We are tackling climate change, conserving lands, waters, and oceans at an unprecedented scale, providing food and water sustainably and helping

make cities more resilient. The Nature Conservancy is working to make a lasting difference around the world in 83 countries and territories (39 by direct conservation impact and 44 through partners) through a collaborative approach that engages local communities, governments, the private sector, and other partners.

Learn more online at nature.org/Ohio and connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and TikTok.

## PAULDING COUNTY DEMOCRATS HOLD APRIL MEETING

The Paulding County Democrat party held their April 14, 2026 meeting at the Eagles in Paulding starting at 7 PM.

George Geyer led the meeting in the pledge of allegiance.

Sheri Baker read roll call and the minutes of the previous meeting. There were not any corrections or additions to the minutes so they stood as read.

Bill Thomas read the financial reports for February and March. Mike Porter made a motion with Joe Sukup 2nd the motion accepting the financial report. Motion carried.

George Geyer reported out on the float that Jared and Larry Grace are going to do the necessary repairs.

George Geyer saw Sherrod Brown in Celina, he was impressed and said that he is doing a heck of a job getting to the counties.

Sheri Baker reported out on the 6 county that was held in Fulton County. There were 11 candidates that spoke. Bryan Hambley candidate for Secretary of State, did an impressive job as usual. Charlie Bakle asked for everyone's support as he is running for the Democrat Party District 1 Central Committee. Elliot Forhan, candidate for Attorney General of Ohio, spoke very passionately about the laws of Ohio. The last speaker of the evening was Marcy Kaptur, whom is running for the 9th district Representative to Congress. Marcy is new for us in Paulding County. Marcy Kaptur does a fabulous job representing her district.

George Geyer talked about the fair and asked for donations. We would like to sell prepackaged snacks but need to check further into it.

Sheri Baker reported out on the voting times for early voting and the location change for Wayne Trace

school location. Sheri encouraged taxpayers to call the school and let them know of their displeasure. Sheri also let everyone know of the write in candidate for the 82 district for State Representative, Maddux McCray.

Mike Porter made a motion to pay all normal expenses for the year of 2026, Donnie Lambert 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Porter made a motion to adjourn, Donnie Lambert 2nd. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

The next meeting will be at the Paulding Eagles on Tuesday, May 12th at 7:00 p.m.

## LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

### Thatch

Some of you have already done these things to your lawn this spring. Some of you are planning to do them. Here is some helpful information on how to determine whether you need to thatch, aerate, or roll your lawn. I'll also provide some tips and benefits of these activities.

Thatch is defined as the layer of dead turf grass tissue between the green vegetation and the soil surface. Lawn thatch is derived from stems, leaves, stolons, rhizomes and roots. Thatch is a problem only when it becomes too thick. A layer of thatch 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick is beneficial to the lawn. It buffers soil temperatures and adds to the resilience of the lawn, thereby reducing the compaction of soil that can result from heavy use.

When too thick, however, thatch is water repellent. Conscientious gardeners may think they are watering enough, when in fact the water never reaches the soil. Grass roots that grow in the thatch layer instead of in the soil are less drought resistant, since the moisture in the thatch evaporates faster than the moisture that penetrates in soil.

Insects and diseases find thatch a particularly suitable place to inhabit. Since water does not penetrate it readily, neither do pest and disease control products. It may take two to three weeks to control soil insects like grubs under a lawn with excessive thatch as opposed to half that long with a thatch-free lawn.

Dethatching is typically performed every other year, although the actual frequency depends on the type of grass. Examining your lawn is the best way to tell whether it needs dethatching. Use a knife to remove a three-sided plug of lawn to see how deep the thatch is. The thatch is visible as a layer of peat-like material between the grass plants and the soil. Experienced greens keepers can tell how thick the thatch layer is by walking across the turf. Excess thatch gives the lawn a spongy feel underfoot.

Dethatching damages the grass plants. So the best time to dethatch is just before a lawn has its most vigorous growth of the season — that way it has time to recover. Dethatch warm-season grasses with the beginning of warm weather in late spring. Prime time for dethatching cool-season grasses is in early fall. A period of good growing conditions, such as during the fall, helps them to recover quickly.

Aeration is the most useful treatment for moderate

## Scripture of the Week

“Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.”

— Colossians 4:5-6

## TO BE SET APART



To be set apart as a Christian involves embracing a lifestyle and values that reflect the teachings of Jesus Christ. This concept is rooted in the idea of holiness and distinctiveness in character and conduct. Here are a few key aspects to elaborate on:

1. **Personal Relationship with God**: Being set apart begins with cultivating a personal relationship with God through prayer, reading scripture, and meditation. This spiritual foundation helps Christians align their lives with God's will and purpose.

2. **Moral and Ethical Standards**: Christians are often called to uphold certain moral and ethical standards that may differ from societal norms. This includes honesty, integrity, humility, and love for others. Living by these principles can sometimes set believers apart in their communities.

3. **Community and Fellowship**: Christians are encouraged to engage with fellow believers, fostering a sense of community and support. This fellowship serves as a reminder of their shared faith and purpose, reinforcing their commitment to living in a way

that honors God.

4. **Service to Others**: Being set apart also means actively serving others, reflecting Christ's love through acts of kindness and generosity. This could manifest in volunteering, helping those in need, or advocating for social justice, demonstrating the Christian call to love one's neighbor.

5. **Cultural Engagement**: While Christians are called to be in the world, they are also urged to navigate culture thoughtfully. This involves promoting positive change and upholding values that align with their faith while engaging with and understanding the world around them.

6. **Witnessing and Sharing Faith**: Being set apart includes the responsibility to share the Gospel and the personal testimony of one's faith journey with others. This is not just about words but also exemplifying Christ-like behavior in everyday life.

7. **Endurance in Trials**: Christians may face challenges, persecution, or misunderstandings due to their beliefs. Remaining steadfast in faith during difficult times can further highlight their distinctiveness as believers, showcasing resilience and hope.

Ultimately, being set apart as a Christian is about living a life that reflects the love, grace, and truth of Jesus Christ, influencing others through both actions and words. It's a continuous journey of growth, learning, and commitment to God's calling.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

### Scripture Reference:

Leviticus 20:26, 1Peter 2:9, Romans 12:2, 2 Corinthians 6:17, Deuteronomy 14:2

thatch. For heavier thatch, several remedies are available. Soil penetrants, or wetting agents, counteract the hydrophobic (water barrier) character of thatch, but only briefly. Bacterial agents that help break down thatch have proved somewhat effective, though again not long lasting. Thatching rakes with knifelike blades instead of teeth are useful for small lawns. Special attachments for rotary mowers, such as thatching rakes, may be helpful.

The most effective way to dethatch a home lawn is with a vertical mower. Resembling a heavy-duty power mower, a vertical mower has a series of revolving vertical knives that cut and pull through the thatch and bring it to the surface of the lawn. You can then sweep, rake, or vacuum this material away. Vertical mowers may be rented from local equipment rental companies.

To dethatch effectively, adjust the depth and spacing of the vertical mower blades for your type of grass. Generally, the blades should completely penetrate the top half of the thatch layer. Move the vertical mower across the lawn in parallel rows; then mow again in a crosswise direction. For thatch thicker than 1 inch, mow a third time at a 45-degree angle with the previous cuts.

After removing thatch from your lawn, you can help the lawn recover by applying a complete fertilizer and watering it in to your lawn.

Unless you are removing dead grass prior to renovating, severe dethatching is probably unwise. If the lawn and its roots are well established, severe dethatching can weaken the turf and disturb the sod, allowing difficult grassy weeds such as coarse fescue to gain a foothold. It is

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**ME AND THE CAR**

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

Most of us can't wait until we turn 16 and get our driver's license. Driving that car for the first time, you might wave at mom and dad, honk at your friends and then perhaps drive around town.

I had 4 children and each time one got their driver's license, I worried each time they drove any place.

I remember letting them drive to a department store, to the park, to grandma's and eventually to school. I think it gave them a sense of responsibility.

But, looking back at my own driving, I will say my kids were better drivers than I was (shhhhhh). I had a bad time trying to get my own driver's license. Why? Well...

First of all my cousin thought she would help me by loaning me her car. Her car was a big old white Buick. For the life of me, I could not parallel park that car. So I flunked. (each time I went to parallel park I got to try three times so that made three chances every time I tried.

A month later I went back with that same big car and flunked again. The driving instructor just looked at me and shook his head. I had one more try.

The third time I took a smaller car and got halfway in the spot. The poor instructor said, "Ma'am, I am going to give you your license and I sure hope I don't see you again out here."

I was really proud, but everything wasn't perfect. One of the first things I did was drive our old Ford 90 mph. Well, somehow the engine must have blown up and was smoking.

No cell phones then so I

walked to the nearest house and called my husband. He was not happy because the car was ruined because I wanted to see how fast it would go. I never tried that again.

A couple other incidents happened in snowy weather. I was on my way to work, hit some black ice and was ready to crash into a snow plow. I prayed "Oh Lord if I am going to die here let me be ready, Amen."

Well, Jesus took the wheel and I stopped right next to the snow plow. I was one happy lady thanking God for his miracle and that I did not



meet my maker that day.

Many times I told Jesus to drive with me, but I got so many speeding tickets, that Jesus said "Slow down girl, we have time to slow down and there could be another policeman ahead."

One other thing about my driving is that I get lost very easy. My best thing to do is to learn one way to get to my destination and follow that way all the time. Memorize and don't ever try a new way.

One day when working at the paper, I was asked to go to the post office. Well, I could not find that post office and it was in Paulding. I was gone forever trying to find it.

So I called in and said, "I can't find the post office." The girls were surprised and could not believe I got lost in Paulding. After I got to realize where the Post Office was, I saw that I had been almost on top of it and had just been driving up the wrong street for an hour.

Enough about my driving so let me ask you if you have ever had a speeding ticket, almost hit a snow plow or got lost in Paulding Ohio? Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

6.0 to 7.0.

Here are some tips to avoid thatch build-up in your lawn. Minimize activities that compact soil. Don't let the grass become too tall before mowing it. Follow the recommended rates when applying fertilizer to your lawn. Avoid frequent, shallow irrigation. Finally, don't let soil pH fall below 6.0.

The Scotts Company has provided this information.

—Len Schrock  
Grabill Hardware  
Do It Best

**7 QUESTIONS WITH MEGHAN KIRSTEN, FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONER**



**Meghan Kirsten**

Meghan Kirsten, FNP-C, MSN, BSN, has joined Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) – Family Medicine in Bryan and is welcoming patients at the office, 442 W. High St., Suite 3. She collaborates with Dr. Kevin Park in providing high-quality, compassionate healthcare for individuals and families, including newborns.

Kirsten graduated from Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Mich., with a bachelor's degree in kinesiology. She earned an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree from Union University in Jackson, Tenn. She obtained her's degree (Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner) from Spring Arbor University in Spring Arbor, Mich.

Certified through the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, Kirsten holds membership in the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Kirsten's training and experience qualify her to conduct patient assessments, order imaging and lab tests and interpret results, diagnose, develop treatment plans, and treat a wide variety of medical conditions. She can also prescribe medications and therapy options; perform well-child, women's health, occupational health and other physical exams; perform in-office procedures; administer vaccinations; provide patient education and much more.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Morenci, Michigan

Q: Was there an inspiration for you to go into nursing? A: Short answer, my mother, who has been a registered nurse at Hillsdale Hospital for the past 40 years. Also, my time as an ER technician made me realize the role of nurses in the outpatient setting and the opportunities to care not only for the patients, but for their families as well.

Q: What motivates or energizes you in your work? A: I enjoy assisting patients and seeing the difference in their health due to interventions and suggestions. Being able to

see the results from our work together is especially motivating in primary care.

Q: How would you describe your approach to patient care?

A: I try to make sure that my approach is holistic and patient-centered. This includes doing my best to treat the whole person, and not just the condition that prompts them to come see me.

Q: Do you have any areas of special interest within family medicine?

A: I enjoy caring for people of all ages, but I'm especially drawn to women's health and pediatrics.

Q: What else would you like people to know about you as a healthcare professional?

A: I work to build trust through active listening and clear communication so that my patients feel heard and involved in their care. I want to be an advocate for their health with an emphasis on education about their condition so that they have no question when it comes to their healthcare plan.

Q: What activities do you enjoy when you're away from the office?

A: I enjoy spending time with my family – including my three young children -- attending concerts, camping and baking.

Office information:

- Appointment scheduling: Call 419-636-4517.
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**PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET**

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, May 20 at 1:00 p.m. Magpie Restaurant, Rt 18, north of Hicksville. Speaker will be Jerry Sanders, Defiance County Fairboard. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

**APPLY NOW TO BE A VENDOR AT DEFCOM 11**

Defiance Public Library System is now accepting vendor applications for the DefCom 11 mini comic convention, set to take place Nov. 21 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Northtowne Mall, 1500 N. Clinton St., Defiance.

This popular annual event features dozens of artists and vendors, a cosplay contest, activities for kids, free arcade games, and more.

Read complete details and access the vendor application at [defiancelibrary.org/defcom11](http://defiancelibrary.org/defcom11).

**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](mailto:info@westbendnews.net)

Call 419-258-2000 for information or printing quotes.

**MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY**



**By: Mark Holtsberry**

Clarence Joseph Tibbet was born December 31, 1894, in New Haven, the son of Barney Tibbet, born in 1842 in Indiana, and Caroline J. (Renille) Tibbet, born in May 1865. The couple was married August 15, 1890, in Fort Wayne.

By 1900, the Tibbet family was living in Adams, Allen County, Indiana. Barney and Caroline were farmers raising their children: John J., born September 28, 1891; Clarence, born December 31, 1894; Alice M., born in 1897; and Ann W., born May 17, 1899. A daughter, Helena, was born April 12, 1893, and passed away in 1895. Barney's father, Herman Tibbet, was living with the family, as well as a servant named Alice Gremaux.

By 1910, the family was still living in Adams, Indiana. Barney continued farming, while Clarence had quit school to help on the farm. The family had grown with the addition of Edward Fred, born in 1901; Eugene B., born June 2, 1905; and twins Agnes and Helen, also born June 2, 1905. Clarence's father, Barney, passed away in 1912.

On June 5, 1917, Clarence registered for the World War I draft. He was working as a shipping clerk in New Haven for the J. Bursley Company of Fort Wayne, Indiana. He was listed as 6 feet tall, with a slender build, brown eyes, and brown hair. Clarence was inducted into military service on April 3, 1918. Promoted to Corporal, he served with Battery D, 70th Artillery.

On February 11, 1919,

com11. The deadline to apply to be a vendor is Aug. 7.

For updates about the event, follow DefCom on Facebook @dplsdefcom.

For questions, contact Cara Bolley ([cbolley@defiancelibrary.org](mailto:cbolley@defiancelibrary.org)/419-782-1456 ext. 1108).

Clarence was sent to Saint-Nazaire to board the ship Manchuria and return to America. The ship landed at Hoboken on February 22, 1919. Clarence received an honorable discharge on March 12, 1919.

On September 16, 1919, Clarence married Agnes M. Rengel. She was born July 3, 1900, in Payne. Clarence and Agnes moved to Payne and lived with her parents, Peter and Mary Rengel. Also living in the home were cousin Joseph Kuhn, Lillian Kuhn, and Clarence's brother Edward Tibbet. Clarence worked on the Rengel farm.

On Thursday, January 22, 1922, Clarence was killed instantly while sawing wood with a buzz saw at his home near Payne. Funeral services were held Friday, January 30, 1922, at St. Patrick Church. Burial took place at St. John Cemetery.



CLARENCE TIBBET.

Agnes remarried on February 22, 1927, in Allen County, Indiana, to Frank Louis Rosswurm. They had three children: Marcella Celeste, born May 5, 1920, in Payne, who passed away November 17, 2020, in Michigan; Giles Lewis Rosswurm, born February 25, 1928, who died March 9, 2019; and Leon L. Rosswurm, born October 28, 1931, who passed away February 14, 1964. Agnes passed away December 25, 1963, in Monroeville.

Clarence's mother, Caroline, passed away in 1952 and is buried with Bernard at St. John Cemetery. Clarence's brothers, Edward and Eugene, both served in World War II and were honorably discharged.

am – 11:00am. We will be in the parking lot by the Clock Tower in Woodburn. Proceeds will be used to sponsor our scholarship program for Woodlan seniors. Come out and show your support for the worthy seniors. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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The Woodburn Lions Club will have their Famous Donuts on Saturday, May 16 from 7:00

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# ODNR CELEBRATES HISTORIC TREES WITH AMERICA 250 EVENTS



COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry is commemorating America’s 250th anniversary through a series of events highlighting historic trees that have stood witness to the birth and growth of the United States.

“These events offer a unique opportunity to connect people with trees that have lived through generations of American history,” said ODNR Director Mary Mertz. “By celebrating these remarkable trees, we are also highlighting the importance of conserving Ohio’s forests for future generations.”

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry will host two more Legacy Tree events this year to celebrate Ohio’s historic trees.

The first event, called Leaves of Legacy, was held at Johnson Woods State Nature

Preserve in April. Participants gathered to see and learn about one of the oldest shagbark hickories in the state.

Attendees also observed how foresters measure and score champion trees. These measurements help identify and recognize the largest known trees of each species across the state. The honored tree turned out to be a state co-champion shagbark hickory, meaning it’s one of the biggest in the state.

“Trees like these are living landmarks,” said ODNR Division of Forestry Chief Dan Balsler. “They tell the story of Ohio’s changing landscape and remind us of the long-term value of sustainable forest management.”

The Division of Forestry is hosting more Legacy Tree events to celebrate Ohio’s historic trees and the role they play in the state’s past, present, and future.

These events are as follows:

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum on Thursday, June 18, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve on Wednesday, September 9, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

The Ohio Division of Forestry promotes the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio’s public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio’s woodlands, visit [forestry.ohiodnr.gov/](https://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/) (https://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/). Follow us on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/odnr-forestry) and on Instagram (https://instagram.com/odnr-forestry) @odnrforestry.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at [ohiodnr.gov](https://www.ohiodnr.gov/) (https://www.ohiodnr.gov/).

## TWO NORTHWEST STATE STUDENTS NAMED TO ‘25-‘26 ALL-OHIO ACADEMIC TEAM



Brady Clark (Defiance) and Seth Hathaway (Deshler) were named to the All-Ohio Academic Third Team, placing them among the top thirty community college students in the state.

ARCHBOLD, OHIO – All-Ohio Academic Team. Two Northwest State Community College students have been named to the 2025-2026

democratic Third Team, placing them among the top thirty community college students in the state. The students were honored at a recognition luncheon on April 23rd at the Ohio Statehouse in Columbus.

“We are proud of the accomplishments of Brady and Seth,” said Dr. Lana Snider, Vice President for Academics at Northwest State. “They have set tremendous examples in the classroom and in their community.” Snider also praised NSCC faculty and staff for their ongoing contributions to student success.

### ABOUT THE STUDENTS

Clark is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and will graduate in the Summer of 2026 with an Associate of Applied Business in Logistics and Supply Chain Management. He plans to transfer to The University of Toledo to pursue a Bachelors of Business Administration in Operations and Supply Chain Management. Clark is currently employed with APA Solar as a Logistics Coordinator.

Hathaway is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and will graduate in the Fall of 2026 with a Programmable Logic Controller Certificate. He plans to transfer to Miami University to complete a Bachelor of Science in Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology.

Per the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC), the All-Ohio Academic Team program is a collaboration among the OACC, the Phi Theta Kappa honor society, and event sponsors Honda, KeyBank, and Franklin University.

## 25th ANNUAL MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PLANT FUNDRAISER

By: Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources, Paulding County

Spring in Northwest Ohio brings color, pollinators, and the promise of homegrown vegetables—things the Paulding County Master Gardener Volunteers (MGVs) look forward to each year.

The group is excited to announce that the 25th Annual Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Fundraiser will be held Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., or until gone. It will take place at the Block Building on the Paulding County Fairgrounds, located at 503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, OH 45879.

This one-day-only event offers something for every gardener. A wide variety of perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, native plants, trees, shrubs, and container gardens will be available. A highlight of the event is the opportunity to pick up single plants—especially useful for those looking for specific varieties of tomatoes or peppers, including many heirloom types.

Proceeds from the fundraiser directly support community beautification and educational projects led by the Master Gardener Volunteers.

Past contributions have funded: College Scholarship Program; A youth gardening program and garden area at the fairgrounds; Landscaping at the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry; Benches and plantings at the Black Swamp Nature Center; Rock pathways and a native plant garden at the Black Swamp Pavilion; Planters and trees throughout Oakwood, Payne, Antwerp, and Paulding; Hydroponic gardening systems at Antwerp Local Schools; Contributions to Habitat for Humanity landscaping projects; And much more across the county.

“Volunteering is a great way to give back to our Paulding County community,” shared the MGVs. “This event funds the projects that allow us to do just that. There is joy in gardening—but even more joy in giving back.”

During the event, Master Gardener Volunteers will be available to answer gardening and plant care questions. Again in 2026 is the 2nd Annual Youth Flyer Design Contest, with winners recognized at 11:00 a.m. Families can also receive a free packet of Victory Garden seeds—including cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, and sunflowers, thanks to a partnership between OSU Extension and the Ohio Department of Agriculture’s Victory Garden Project. Free fact sheets and gardening brochures will also be available.

Plan to arrive early for the best plant selection and bring a friend or young gardener to share in this vibrant community event!

For more information about the Master Gardener Volunteer program or the plant event, contact Sarah Noggle at [noggle.17@osu.edu](mailto:noggle.17@osu.edu), stop by the OSU Extension Office at 503 Fairground Drive, or call 419-399-8225.

## EATING WITH SINNERS



I enjoy writing about religious topics and would like to do it more. This is something that touches me so let’s give it a try.

Have you ever felt like an outcast?

It may have been something as simple as pimples while you were in high school. Churches can be good at this type of thing. In our church nearly everyone drives a new car and you probably would look out of place driving a beater.

Jesus came across one of the most vile of sinners one day and told him, “Follow me,” I want you to be on my side,

and the man dropped everything and followed him. The man was Levi, the man that wrote the book of Matthew. Levi was a tax collector and despised by the Jews. His only buddies were a few tax collectors that were as vile as he was.

One of Jesus followers was Simon the Zealot. One follower working with the Roman government and one against them. Levi was a Levite, a member of the priestly tribe, a member of the tribe of Aaron. They were supposed to collect tithes for the temple. He forsook this to collect taxes for the Roman government.

Levi asked Jesus if he would come to dinner if he invited his tax collector friends. Jesus said, “Set it up and I’ll be there. “Do we tend to isolate ourselves from sinners? Do we have a soft heart for sinners? Do we feel that we have done enough good that we are better than others? We are all sinners in God’s eyes, none is righteous, no not one.

Let’s ask God to help us to be more compassionate toward other people and let’s make a sincere attempt to consider others as we go about our daily tasks.

—James Neuhouser

## COLLINS AND GUILFORD WEALTH ADVISORS, LLC RETURNS AS SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured (L to R) Matt Guilford - Collins and Guilford Wealth Advisors, LLC Partner, Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director and Kirk Collins - Collins and Guilford Wealth Advisors, LLC Partner.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to announce that Collins and Guilford Wealth Advisors, LLC has returned as a Bronze Sponsor for the 2026 Gala with a \$2,000 contribution.

Now in their second year of sponsorship, their continued support helps make the annual Gala possible while contributing to the growth of the Defiance County Community

Fund. This fund provides grants to local nonprofits, schools, and community organizations working to meet the needs of Defiance County.

The Gala, scheduled for October 3, 2026, brings community members together in support of local philanthropy and long-term impact.

The Defiance Area Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to Collins and Guil-

## The Paulding County Veterans’ Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

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

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

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# THINK-A-THON 2026 WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!



This year, our annual countywide celebration of gifted thinking and collaboration was proudly hosted at Oakwood Elementary. Fifth-grade gifted students from across Paulding County came together for a full day of creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork. It was truly a "field day for the mind"!

From tackling Plexors and analogies to cracking codes, building structures, and racing through memory relays, students stretched their thinking in every direction. The sixth-grade GATE mentors from Oakwood Elementary helped lead the way, building leadership skills while supporting their younger peers.

Events like our Think-A-Thon remind us how powerful it is for learners to connect, collaborate, and celebrate their unique strengths.

A special shout out to The Union Bank Company for sponsoring this year's t-shirts and lunch. We appreciate your support in making this day so memorable for our students!

## MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEERS TO OFFER COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

By: Sarah Noggle, OSU Extension, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Paulding County

The Paulding County Master Gardeners provide education and information about horticulture to the citizens of Paulding County. In 2026, they will be offering their 11th annual college scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to provide access

to educational opportunities for Paulding County residents. The scholarship was developed from money from their annual plant sale. The Master Gardeners want anyone pursuing a degree in agriculture or natural resources, with priority given to horticulture-based majors, to have the opportunity to further their education.

The scholarship will be up to \$2,000. (Number and dollar amount of scholarship(s) to be determined by committee members.) The applica-

tion is open to any Paulding County high school (Paulding, Wayne Trace, or Antwerp), home school graduates, or any 4-Her who was involved in Paulding County 4-H, including across county lines. Applicants can apply as high school seniors, but must have completed one quarter/semester of further education at a college, university, or technical/trade school in the fields of horticulture, agriculture, conservation, or forestry before the scholarship is awarded outside of their high school career.

The scholarship will be awarded regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, gender, disability, or national origin. The recipient is determined by the Scholarship Committee of the Paulding County Master Gardeners based on the applications submitted. Priority will be given to horticulture majors. Applicants shall list leadership qualities in youth organizations, community activities, and agricultural activities. The committee may request an interview once applications are reviewed.

Applicants must mail a completed and signed application with all attachments required on the application to the Paulding County Master Gardeners, 503 Fairgrounds Drive, Paulding, Ohio 45879. The application must be postmarked by May 15, 2026. Hand-delivered ap-

ford Wealth Advisors, LLC for their continued partnership

and commitment to the community.

plications will not be accepted.

The scholarship winner(s) will be decided by July 15, 2026, and the monies will be awarded in the winter of 2027 directly to the recipient(s) or to the university they are attending. Guidelines on the value of the scholarship(s) and requirements for receiving scholarship monies will be sent to the recipient(s) only. The recipient will be set up as a vendor of the Ohio State University and will receive a 1099 form from the Ohio State University for tax purposes. All decisions made by the scholarship committee are final.

For more detailed information and the scholarship application, visit the Paulding County Extension website at [www.paulding.osu.edu](http://www.paulding.osu.edu) (Choose Master Gardener Volunteers and Forms and Applications) or go directly to the link <http://go.osu.edu/PauldingMGV2026Scholarship> to access the application. Applications are also available at the Antwerp, Paulding, and Wayne Trace High School guidance offices.

For additional information on any crop or horticulture topic, contact Sarah Noggle, Paulding County Extension Educator, Ag, and Natural Resources, at [noggle.17@osu.edu](mailto:noggle.17@osu.edu). Individuals can also walk into the OSU Extension Office at 503 Fairground Drive, Paulding, or call 419-399-8225.

## LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATES & TIMES

Harlan Christian School – May 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the school

Antwerp High School – May 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the school

Paulding High School – May 17, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. at the school

Wayne Trace High School – May 17, 2026 at 2:30 p.m. at the school

Leo High School – May 29, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

Woodlan High School – May 30, 2026 at 1:00 p.m. at PFW Auer Performance Hall

Hicksville High School – May 31, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the school

## FOUR ESTATE PLANNING MYTHS THAT COULD COST YOUR FAMILY

Consider this scenario: A teacher of 30 years and mother of three passes away at age 58. She leaves behind a modest home, a retirement account and cherished family heirlooms – but no estate plan. Her children, still grieving, find themselves navigating a confusing probate process, disagreeing about when to sell the house and considering who gets their grandmother's ring.

This mom wasn't wealthy by most measures, but her lack of planning created confusion, conflict and uncertainty at a time when her family needed clarity. Her story reminds us of an important truth: estate planning is about easing conflict and making sure what you have goes where you want it to go.

As you think about your own legacy, consider these myths that can lead to costly mistakes and unintended outcomes.

**Myth 1:** Estate planning is only for wealthy people. The desire to make things easier for loved ones has nothing to do with net worth. Formally documenting your wishes reduces the burden on family members and gives you control. Without a plan, your state's laws will decide how your estate is handled, and you may not like what those laws say.

**Myth 2:** Having a will is all you need. While a will is important, it only takes effect after death. That means it offers no protection if you become incapacitated and cannot make decisions for yourself. It does, however, allow you to name legal guardians for dependent children.

The foundation of most estate plans includes a will (which directs asset distribution), a financial power of attorney (for financial decisions), a health care power of attorney (for medical decisions), and a medical directive (to share your end of life wishes). While not everyone needs a trust, there are several that allow you to make special provisions, such as for minor

children, a special needs family member or even a cherished pet. Consulting with a financial advisor and an estate planning attorney can help determine the right combination based on your situation.

**Myth 3:** Equal distribution is always fair. It's likely that the individuals in your estate plan, especially if they are adult children, have different family and financial situations. You may have one child who's extremely successful financially while another is struggling. Or you may have assets, such as a house or ownership of a family business, that are more suitable for one beneficiary than another. It's important to consider any unique circumstances as you develop your estate plan.

**Myth 4:** I can set it and forget it. You'll want to review your estate plan every few years or when a major life event occurs. Life is full of changes, such as marriages, divorces, new children and relocations, and they will likely impact your goals. Reviewing your plan helps keep everything aligned with your wishes and serves as a reminder to keep your beneficiaries on all your assets up to date.

Ultimately, estate planning is about helping ensure your voice is heard and your loved ones cared for, no matter what the future holds.

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

*Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.*

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## READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

### OHIO LOCATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ney:** Marathon

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

### INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

**Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar Exchange, Harlan Cafe, Antwerp 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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Environmental Science Student in 2025, and qualification for the Ohio Area 1 Envirothon State competition in 2025. Cross has been heavily involved in extracurricular activities including National Honor Society, where he served as Vice President, Hicksville Initiative Student House Leader, Varsity Football where he was a two-time team captain, Wrestling where he served as Senior Captain, and Track and Field. He also earned the Inspiring Teens Magazine Issue 98 Scholarship.

**Paulding High School:**



Hicksville Local School recognizes **Aleyah Keeley** as the Class of 2026 Valedictorian. Aleyah is the daughter of Clay and Emily Keeley of Hicksville and plans to attend The Ohio State University to major in Mechanical Engineering while minoring in Military Science. Her academic achievements include Honor Roll recognition and the Scholar Athlete Award. Throughout high school, Aleyah served as Student Council President and National Honor Society President while also participating in Varsity Golf, Softball, Cross Country, FFA, and serving as a Student House Leader. Her scholarships and recognitions include the Army ROTC National Scholarship, Governor's Merit Scholarship, and Ohio State University Grant.

Paulding Local School Class of 2026 recognizes **Trenton Manz** as this year's Valedictorian. He graduates with a 4.492 GPA. Trenton is the son of Will and Joanna Manz and plans to attend Defiance College to pursue a degree in Education with the goal of eventually teaching science at the middle or high school level. He hopes to remain in Paulding County and may later pursue a master's degree in Administrative Education to become a principal or another type of school leader. Trenton said he feels called into education because of the support he has received from the staff, community, and leadership at Paulding High School and hopes to provide future generations of Paulding Panthers with that same support.

Throughout high school, Trenton was heavily involved in choir and drama, which he said created some of his best memories. He performed lead roles in several musicals and plays including Clue, Footloose, How to Survive a Shakespeare Play, Annie, Aladdin, and Mamma Mia. He also enjoyed supporting classmates, friends, and younger siblings in their sports and extracurricular activities, saying there is nothing like a home crowd at Paulding.

Trenton said he is very thankful and fortunate to be named Valedictorian of the Class of 2026. His accomplishments include earning All A Honor Roll recognition every year except fifth grade, taking honors math, English, and science courses, passing AP Chemistry, and completing more than 45 college credit hours during high school. He is also a member of National Honor Society and plans to continue studying Science Education at Defiance College.

Outside of school, Trenton enjoys spending time with friends and family and is active in his church youth group. He said he strives to live his life for Jesus and has developed a love for Barbershop Quartets that he hopes to continue for many years. He also enjoys being outdoors, especially mowing, along with swimming, playing pickup basketball and football, and camping. Trenton and a friend are currently restoring an old motorhome that they plan to use for road trips.

When reflecting on high school, Trenton said there have been many memorable moments over the last four years, both good and bad. He especially enjoyed cheering on some of the best sports seasons in Paulding history this past year and getting to know his classmates personally while sharing in both the fun and ordinary moments of high school. He said he is excited to see what the future holds for the Panthers.



Paulding Local School Class of 2026 recognizes **Sheyenne Shepherd** as this year's Salutatorian. She graduates with a 4.327 GPA. Sheyenne is the daughter of Aaron and Jennifer Shepherd and plans to attend Northwest State Community College to major in Nursing. She said she

has always had a desire to help people and believes nursing is a career that will allow her to do that.

Throughout high school, Sheyenne participated in the Drama Department, Ohio Model United Nations, Student Council, National Honor Society, and worked while attending school. Her awards and scholarships include the Presidential Scholarship through Northwest State Community College, the Governor's Merit Scholarship, and the St. Rita's Medical Center Scholarship.

Outside of school, Sheyenne enjoys spending time with her family and watching her nieces and nephews. She also enjoys reading and spending time with friends.

Her most memorable high school experience was standing in the student section with her friends while cheering on this year's Paulding sports teams.

**Wayne Trace High School:**



Wayne Trace Local School recognizes **Torea Sinn** as Class of 2026 Top Scholar, who graduates with a 4.0 GPA. Torea is the daughter of Josh and Chrissy Sinn and plans to attend The Ohio State University to major in Nursing. She said she is interested in the medical field and has a passion for serving others. Throughout high school, Torea served as Pep Club President, National Honor Society Vice President during her senior year, Student Council Vice President during her freshman and sophomore years, Prom Committee member during her junior year, and Yearbook staff member during her junior and senior years. She also volunteered with the WTEA Purse Bingo, Paulding Fairgrounds food distribution, Tutoring, Wayne Trace Senior Citizen Luncheon, and Wayne Trace Volleyball Teaching Camp. Her honors included being named a Franklin B. Walter Scholarship winner, earning an Academic Letter, and making the Honor Roll. Outside of school, Torea enjoys staying active and playing sports, along with watching sporting events, television shows, and movies. Her most memorable high school experience was attending football and basketball games



with her friends. Wayne Trace Local School recognizes **Caitlyn Mead** as Class of 2026 Top Scholar, who graduates with a 4.0 GPA. Caitlyn is the daughter of Cary and Tina Mead and plans to attend Bowling Green State

University to study Biology. She said she was inspired to pursue biology after a job shadowing opportunity where she worked alongside a biologist from the Ohio State University Extension office and saw firsthand how the area impacts the Lake Erie conservation project, inspiring her interest in conservation biology. During high school, Caitlyn participated in four years of basketball and softball and was a member of the high school marching and concert band for five years, where she held two leadership positions. She was also active in National Honor Society, the Spanish Club, Pep Band, and numerous volunteer activities including Habitat for Humanity. Caitlyn earned several athletic and academic honors including placement on the Dean's List at the University of Findlay, Departmental Awards in Health and Biology, first place in the West Bend News Writing Contest, Outstanding Member Award for Band, Most Improved awards in basketball and softball, the Raider Award for softball, GMC All-Conference Scholar Athlete recognition, Northwest Ohio District 7 Academic Achievement Award, and many additional honors. Outside of school, Caitlyn enjoys gardening flowers and vegetables, spending time outdoors, reading, writing, watching television shows including Friends reruns, and spending time with family, friends, her dog Shiloh, and her cat Frank. Her most memorable high school experience occurred during a band trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida, when she and her friends became stuck at the top of a roller coaster hill for about 10 minutes before the ride resumed unex-



pectedly. Wayne Trace Local School recognizes **Clay Stoller** as Class of 2026 Top Scholar, who graduates with a 4.0 GPA. Clay is the son of Reid and Amanda Stoller and plans to attend Western Michigan University to study Biomedical Science. He said he plans to use his education to pursue a career in the healthcare field. Throughout high school, Clay participated in Varsity Football, Track and Field, National Honor Society, and community service activities. His awards and scholarships included the St. Rita's Medical Center Scholarship, the Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative Members Scholarship, and a four-year Academic Letter. Outside of school, Clay said he spends most of his time working out at the gym

and hanging out with friends. His most memorable high school experiences were football games and track meets



with his teammates. Wayne Trace Local School recognizes **Riley Manz** as Class of 2026 Top Scholar, who graduated with a 4.0 GPA. Riley is the son of Greg and Julie Manz and plans to attend Purdue Fort Wayne to pursue degrees in Accounting and Finance. Riley said that throughout his years in school he has done well in math classes and developed an interest in statistics and money. During high school, he participated in Cross Country for four years, Track and Field for four years, and his church's youth group for four years. He also served as National Honor Society President during his senior year after being a member for two years. Riley's awards included being a three-time Americanism Test winner along with earning several department awards. Outside of school, Riley enjoys hunting, fishing, playing sports with friends and family, and watching both college and professional sports. His most memorable high school experience was watching March Madness games on his laptop



during class each year. Wayne Trace Local School recognizes **Natalie Richie** as Class of 2026 Top Scholar, who graduates with a 4.0 GPA. Natalie is the daughter of Courtney Richie and Eric Hohman and plans to attend Kent State University to pursue a degree in Chemistry with the goal of becoming an anesthesiologist. She said she has always been interested in the medical field because she wants to help others, noting the strong growth currently occurring in the healthcare industry. Throughout high school, Natalie participated in National Honor Society and Scholastic Bowl, and during her senior year she served as Student Council President. Her honors and recognitions included the Ohio Governor's Merit Scholarship, a 2025 Scholastic Art and Writing Competition Honorable Mention, the University of Saint

**Antwerp Archers**      **Paulding Panthers**      **Wayne Trace Raiders**

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Francis 44th Annual High School Art Show Award of Excellence, recognition in the 2025 Huntington University High School Art Show, Ohio House of Representatives Student Art Recognition, and participation in the Congressional Art Competition, WT Art Show, and the Kenton Art

Show. Outside of school, Natalie enjoys drawing, painting, baking, and doing nails. Her most memorable high school experience was attending football games, where she said the positive atmosphere and community spirit made the games especially memorable.

## PATRIOTS STOP WARRIORS AT HOME VOLLEYBALL MATCH



Woodlan Sophomore Griffin Kever scrambles to save the ball in this dig against the Patriots. The Warriors struggled in this match with a 0-3 set game on Wednesday May 6th. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

## LADY PANTHERS EXPLODE FOR SEVEN-RUN FOURTH INNING



Freshman Maddie Clark picks off the base runner at first after pitcher Tia Mendez, senior, catches the line drive hit and throws to second and then Clark to first, getting the double play on the forced out. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

The Paulding Panthers broke open a tight game with a seven-run fourth inning to defeat Montpelier 7-1 on May 7 in softball action at Paulding.

Montpelier grabbed an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning on a solo home run by Morgan Bechtol, but the Panthers kept the Locomotives off the board the rest of the way behind solid pitching from Tia Mendez and Gracie Leal.

Mendez earned the win after allowing one earned run on three hits over five innings while striking out three and walking two. Leal tossed the final two innings, giving up three hits with one strikeout and one walk.

Paulding's offense came alive in the fourth inning, taking advantage of Montpelier miscues while collecting timely hits to score all seven of

its runs.

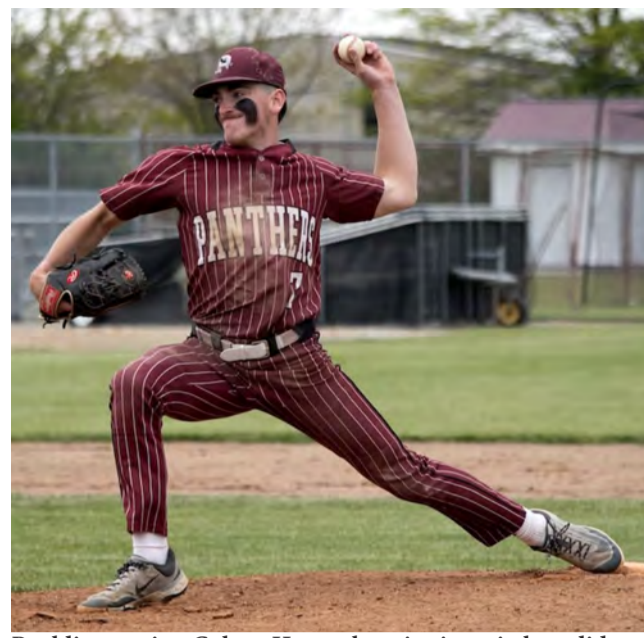
Civil Pumphrey drove in two runs with a single and also scored once. Mendez helped her own cause with two singles, a run scored and an RBI. Luci Martinez added two singles, a run and an RBI, while Mariah Klopfenstein singled and drove in a run.

Cadence Schwab added a single and scored, Samantha Leal contributed two RBIs and Madison Clark and Gracie Leal each crossed the plate for the Panthers.

Cianna Shoup took the loss for Montpelier, allowing seven runs, only one earned, on seven hits over six innings.

Offensively for the Locomotives, Bechtol finished with the solo homer while Alyvia Repp doubled. Maggie Jacob, Neriah Thorp, Henna Beck and Rowan Brown each added singles.

## PAULDING PLATES NINE IN FIRST INNING TO ROLL PAST FORT JENNINGS



Paulding senior Colten Hunt, the winning pitcher, did not disappoint in this game against the Musketeers. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com).

The Paulding Panthers erupted for nine runs in the opening inning and never looked back in a 13-3 baseball victory over Fort Jennings on May 7 at Paulding.

The Panthers wasted little time taking control, sending runs across in bunches during the first inning before adding insurance runs later in the contest to secure the run-rule win.

Colten Hunt earned the victory on the mound for Paulding, pitching all six innings. Hunt allowed three earned runs on five hits while striking out eight and walking three.

Fort Jennings starter Hunter Stewart was charged with the loss after allowing four runs, three earned, over five innings. Grant Diller worked in relief and surrendered nine runs, eight earned, in two-thirds of an inning.

Paulding collected eight

hits in the win, led by Stroker Etter with three singles, a run scored and three RBIs. Wes Grindstaff added a double, a run and two RBIs, while Colten Hunt helped his own cause with a single, a run scored and three RBIs.

Jackson Griffith finished with two singles and scored twice. Ridge Hunt added a single, a run and an RBI, while Nick Baughman and Grady Barton each drove in a run. Grady Arend scored twice, and Zachary Barton, Kalan Burns, Easton Lehman and Tyler Goyings each scored once.

Fort Jennings was led offensively by Adler Pothast with a double and RBI. Cayden Swick added a single and RBI, while Sam Dube singled and scored. Derek Hark and Luke Diller each singled, with Diller also scoring a run. Hayden Andrews drove in a run and Grant Diller also crossed the plate.

## PAULDING COUNTY RETIRED TEACHERS AWARD SCHOLARSHIP TO ANTWERP SENIOR



The Paulding County Retired Teachers Association recently awarded a scholarship to a Paulding County high school senior planning to enter the field of education.

Zaine McMichael, the son of Scott and Courtney McMichael, received a \$350 scholarship. Zaine will graduate from Antwerp High School and plans to attend Wilmington College where he will major in Health and Physical Education.

## DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S SHUTS OUT WAYNE TRACE IN FIVE INNINGS

Delphos St. John's used timely hitting and capitalized on Wayne Trace errors to earn a 10-0 baseball victory over the Raiders on May 4.

The Blue Jays scored two runs in both the first and second innings before breaking

Rosswurm allowed five runs, only one earned, on six hits while striking out eight over four innings. Deklyn Schweinsberg pitched two-thirds of an inning in relief.

Tyce McClain led the Blue Jays offensively with a single, triple, three runs scored and two RBIs. Cam Elwer added a single, a run and 2 RBIs, while Maddox Kroeger collected two singles and scored twice.

Andrew Elwer contributed a single and RBI, while Colton Clark and Hank Walpole each singled. Logan Duncan, Braden Lindeman and Aidan Swick also scored runs, with Swick adding an RBI.

Wayne Trace managed three hits in the contest. Tanner Laukhuf had a single and double, while Jonathan Sterrett added a single.

## RAIDERS SHUTS OUT MILLER CITY BEHIND STRONG PITCHING

Wayne Trace received dominant pitching from Carter Clemens and Caden Sinn as the Raiders blanked Miller City 6-0 on May 7 at Miller City.

The Raiders broke through with two runs in the third inning before adding three more in the fourth and another in the sixth to secure the non-

league victory.

Clemens earned the win after pitching six scoreless innings, allowing just three hits while striking out eight and walking one. Caden Sinn closed out the game with a strong seventh inning, allowing two hits while striking out three.

Miller City managed five hits in the game but could not push a run across against the Wayne Trace pitching staff.

Ryan Cluts led the Raiders offensively with two singles and two runs scored. Brody Rosswurm added two singles and an RBI, while Lucas Morehead contributed a single and two RBIs.

Carter Clemens helped his own cause with a single and RBI, Tanner Laukhuf added an RBI and run scored and Jonathan Sterrett collected a single. Jack Schoenauer, Blake Noggle and Micah Sinn each scored runs for Wayne Trace.

Landon Inkrott took the loss for Miller City after allowing five runs, four earned, over four innings. Blake Schnipke pitched the final three innings in relief.

Jack Wenzinger paced Miller City with two singles, while Caleb Reichley doubled. Jonathon Pester and Henry Rump each added singles for the Wildcats.

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# THE LEFT TURN



Modifieds Opening Night at Eldora photo credit Campbell Photography.

Once again, most race-tracks were forced to cancel last weekend's events. Some tracks were too wet and waterlogged and other speedways closed because the cooler temps would be uncomfortable for race teams and fans. Two tracks decided to brave the weather and fans flocked to both.

Eldora Speedway opened their 2026 season last Saturday with Family Fun Night and fireworks. Headlining the first night was the USAC Midwest D2 Thunder Midgets. 26 cars checked into the track and all 26 made the feature. Luke Hall drove his #74 into victory lane, with Bryce Massingill and Drew Rader making the podium. Due to weather no qualifying heats were ran. Eldora and USAC decided to have two shootouts with 13 cars in both. Matt Lux and Bryce Massingill were the shootout winners. Bryce Massingill was Quick Time!!

Fast qualifier with a 17.810, edging Matt Lux by 0.08 sec. The USAC Thunder Midgets will be back at it at Limaland Motorsports Park, this Friday, May 8th for the annual Mike Streicher Memorial Race. It will also be opening night for the speedway.

Rob Trent won the Eldora Stock Car Feature and Jonathan Taylor took the trophy in the Modified class.

Some of our area asphalt race fans took the trip north of Toledo for opening night

at Flat Rock Speedway and witnessed two track records set. Cool temps helped all the drivers reach maximum speeds around the semi banked oval. Jonathan Rangel set a new track record in the Street Stock division fast time qualifying, putting together a lap time of 12.742 seconds and just taking Stevie Cronenwett Jr's single-lap record in the process. Avery Vanderhoof set a new track record in Figure 8 division fast time qualifying, putting together a lap time of 20.113 seconds and besting Dennis Whisman Jr's single-lap record of 20.202 seconds from 2025 in the process.

Three classes of cars opened the 2026 season Outlaw Super Late Models, Figure 8's and Street Stocks. Brian Bergakker had several challenges during the Super Late Model Feature but was able to hang on for the win. Scott Hantz and Paul Pelletier made the podium in victory lane. Greg Studt showed why he's an ace in the Street Stock division, adding another win to his resume. Jonny Rangel finished 2nd and Landon Schuster 3rd. One of the big crowd draws at Flat Rock Speedway is the Figure 8's. Fans hold their breath as cars avoid meeting in the middle of the track and passing each other by inches. The ones that don't end up on wrecker hooks. Tonight was a good

night for the drivers, cars, and sheet metal. Record setter, Avery Vanderhoof held his own but couldn't reel in the winner Billy Earley. Travis Earley came in second and Vanderhoof was 3rd.

If the weather holds, many area tracks will open in the next two weeks. Make sure you check your tracks Facebook or web page and make sure they're racing before heading out. Keep your wheels down. Ron out! [www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz](http://www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

## LADY ARCHERS CLAIM COUNTY TITLE; PANTHERS TAKE BOYS' FIRST

The Antwerp girls and Paulding boys captured team championships April 30 at the Paulding County Track Meet.

Antwerp's girls finished as county champions while the Lady Panthers placed second. On the boys side, Paulding claimed the team title and Antwerp finished runner-up. Wayne Trace results were not available at press time.

Mia Stoye turned in a record-tying performance for Antwerp, winning the 100-meter hurdles in 15.98 seconds to match the county meet record set by Hope Smith in 2017. Stoye also won the long jump and helped the Lady Archers to victories in the 4x200 and 4x100 relays.

Antwerp's girls also picked up individual wins from Zuber in the 100 and 200 meters, Durbin in the 1600 and 800 meters, G. Laker in the 3200 and Graham in the pole vault. The 4x200 team of Graham, Stoye, E. Laker and Zuber took first, as did the 4x100 team with the same foursome.

Paulding's girls were led by Kayleigh Dunham, who won the high jump and 300 hurdles while also placing second in the 100 hurdles. Anya Mead swept the throwing events with first-place finishes in the shot put and discus. The Lady Panthers also won the 4x800 relay with Kyler Fox, Brynlee Mangette, Jayla Griffith and Dani Borland, along with the 4x400 relay featuring the same group.

On the boys side, Paulding used strong finishes across the track to claim the team championship. Bolu Omonayin won the 100 meters and placed third in the 200, while Emmet Barnes won the 200, Landon Grinnell captured the 400 and Achilles Mead took first in the 800. The Panthers also won the 4x800, 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Antwerp's boys were paced by Corbin Sargent, who won both the 1600 and 3200 meters. McMichael won the 110 hurdles and finished second in the 300 hurdles, while Gray-Wyckoff swept the discus and shot put. Rogge added a high jump victory and Bradenburg won the long jump for the Archers.

Wayne Trace results were not available at Press Time.

## WAYNE TRACE HOLDS OFF ELIDA IN 27-RUN SOFTBALL SHOOTOUT

The Wayne Trace Raiders built an early lead and survived a late Elida rally to earn a 15-12 softball victory on May 4 at Elida.

# NORTH WESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MARKS 90 YEARS OF POWERING COMMUNITIES, LOOKS AHEAD WITH MEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Lu Cooke, District Advisor to Senate President Rob McColley presents a commendation recognizing the 90th anniversary milestone to a group of NWEC trustees and employees.

BRYAN, Ohio — North Western Electric Cooperative is celebrating 90 years of bringing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity to northwest Ohio — while continuing to focus firmly on the future. Founded in 1936 during the early days of rural electrification, the member-owned cooperative will mark the milestone throughout the remainder of 2026, including hosting three anniversary celebrations for members—reservations required.

- June 4 at The Compass in Montpelier
- September 3 at Stoney Ridge Winery in Bryan
- December 3 at Iron Horse Brews in Sherwood

The anniversary theme, "Reflecting on our past, shaping our future," captures both the cooperative's history and its ongoing commitment to serving members as technology, expectations, and energy needs continue to evolve.

"Reaching 90 years is a testament to the vision of our founders and the continued support of our members," said Darin Thorp, North Western's president and CEO. "While we're proud of where we came from, our focus remains on preparing the cooperative for the future — through reliability, innovation, and service."

North Western Electric Cooperative was formed in 1936 following the creation of the Rural Electrification Administration, which brought

electricity to rural areas that previously went without. The co-op's first lines were energized in 1938, serving members who averaged just 40 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month, enough to provide light and power for basic household needs.

Over nine decades, NWEC has continually adapted to meet the changing needs of its membership, expanding infrastructure, improving reliability, and adopting new technology. Today, the cooperative serves more than 6,000 members across northwest Ohio with nearly 1,000 miles of distribution lines, transmission facilities, and nine substations, while offering additional services such as propane.

Rather than a single event, NWEC is celebrating its anniversary by sharing the moment with members during upcoming open house-style member meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity to reflect on the cooperative's history, highlight recent projects, and discuss the future direction of the organization.

"These meetings are at the heart of who we are as a cooperative," said Thorp. "They give members a voice, a chance to connect with trustees and staff, and a way to be part of shaping what comes next."

As part of the anniversary recognition, NWEC is also

highlighting individual stories that reflect the cooperative spirit. This includes acknowledging a longtime cooperative trustee who will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 6, the anniversary day of the co-op's incorporation. A brief video feature, including an interview, will be released on the cooperative's YouTube channel in May, offering members a chance to hear firsthand reflections on decades of service and change within the cooperative.

While much has changed since its early days, NWEC remains guided by the same cooperative principles that shaped its founding — local control, member ownership, and commitment to community. Investments in system upgrades, grid technology, renewable energy options, and member engagement position the cooperative to serve future generations.

"As we celebrate 90 years, we're grateful for the members who have made this cooperative strong," Thorp said. "We look forward to continuing to evolve while staying true to the mission that brought electricity to our rural communities nearly a century ago."

For more information about the co-op's 90th anniversary and upcoming member meetings, visit [www.nwec.com](http://www.nwec.com) or follow North Western Electric Cooperative on Facebook.

Wayne Trace scored four runs in the first inning and added five more in the second to seize control early. The Raiders later added three runs in both the fifth and sixth innings, which proved crucial as Elida mounted a four-run rally in the seventh before the game ended.

Raegan McGarvey picked up the win for Wayne Trace, pitching all seven innings. McGarvey struck out nine while allowing 12 runs, six earned, on 11 hits.

Elida used two pitchers, with Mia Mammone taking the loss after allowing nine runs, four earned, in four innings. Lexi Metcalfe worked the final three innings in relief.

Brooke Tigner powered the Raiders offensively with a single, double and five RBIs. Olivia Zartman added three singles, scored three times and drove in two runs, while

Addyson LaBounty finished with a single, double, two runs scored and an RBI.

McGarvey also contributed at the plate with a double, a run scored and two RBIs. Alicia Bahena singled and scored three runs, Avery Noffsinger added a single and two runs, Olivia Tarlton collected two singles and Elly Rickard crossed the plate twice.

Elida was led by D. Miller, who finished with a single, double and home run while

driving in four runs and scoring twice. Claire Dingle-dine added two singles, two runs and an RBI, while Lilly Sifrit had a single, two runs scored and an RBI.

Katelyn Mack collected two singles and an RBI for Elida, while Lacie Hawkey singled, scored three runs and drove in a run. Maddie Kill and Lexi Metcalfe each added singles and scored once, while Ava Jackson also crossed the plate.

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REP. KLOPFENSTEIN JOINS ROUNDTABLE WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF ENERGY TO DISCUSS DATA CENTERS, RATEPAYER PROTECTION PLEDGE



COLUMBUS — State Representative Roy Klopfenstein (R-Haviland) joined a roundtable with Alex Fitzsimmons, Acting Undersecretary of Energy for the U.S. Department of Energy; State Representative Adam Holmes (R-Nashport), State Representative Adam Mathews (R-Lebanon), Chair of the House Energy Committee; State Representative David Thomas (R-Jefferson); and representatives from the America First Policy Institute (AFPI) to discuss the Ratepayer Protection Pledge and Ohio's leadership on data center accountability, which includes Ohio HB

706. The roundtable held at the Statehouse brought together Ohio policymakers, industry leaders, community advocates, and utility representatives for a productive discussion on House Bill 706 and ensuring AI data center growth does not burden Ohio ratepayers. "We will keep working to find a solution that both protects Ohio ratepayers and demonstrates that Ohio is open for business," said Klopfenstein. House Bill 706, introduced by Representatives David Thomas and Tristan Rader, builds on consumer protections already being implemented in AEP Ohio's service territory through a PUCO-approved tariff. AEP has reported that early results from this tariff structure are "working as designed." This legislation would apply those same safeguards statewide, ensuring consistent safeguards for ratepayers across Ohio. House Bill 706 requires data center customers to enter into long-term service agreements with electric utilities before utilities construct dedicated infrastructure. It also directs the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) to establish stan-

dards for interconnection queue practices, load study deposits, and milestone requirements.

The roundtable also included discussion of House Bill 15, a market-driven, comprehensive initiative sponsored by Rep. Klopfenstein and passed by the Legislature last year that aims to boost power generation in Ohio, improve affordability for ratepayers, and increase reliability within the state's electrical grid.

CAMP LAKOTA ALUMNI ANNOUNCE HISTORIC 75th ANNIVERSARY & "HOMECOMING" WEEKEND

DEFIANCE, OH — For the first time in its 75-year history, Camp Lakota will host a massive, alumni-led homecoming celebration this summer on July 11, 2026. Organized by the Camp Lakota Alumni Association, the event invites decades of former Scouts, staff, and their families from across Northwest Ohio, Northeast Indiana, and West Central Ohio to celebrate three-quarters of a century of tradition.

This historic milestone is being guided by a volunteer leadership team with over six decades of combined experience managing and directing operations at the camp. This deep bench of expertise ensures that while the event is a celebration of the past, it is being executed with caring and a deep respect for the 640-acre reservation. "We aren't just celebrating a milestone on a calendar; we are celebrating the thousands of life stories that began around Lake Glengary and within the council fire," said Sean Jones, volunteer with the Camp Lakota Alumni Association.

"Like the rest of my alumni, my leadership skills were forged at Lakota, and we are using our 60-plus years of collective service to create a weekend that honors the Lakota's legacy while welcoming the next generation of families." A Weekend of Reminiscing and Reconnection Departing from traditional guided tours, the event will feature a tailgate format. Additionally, attendees will be encouraged to explore the trails, the shores of Lake

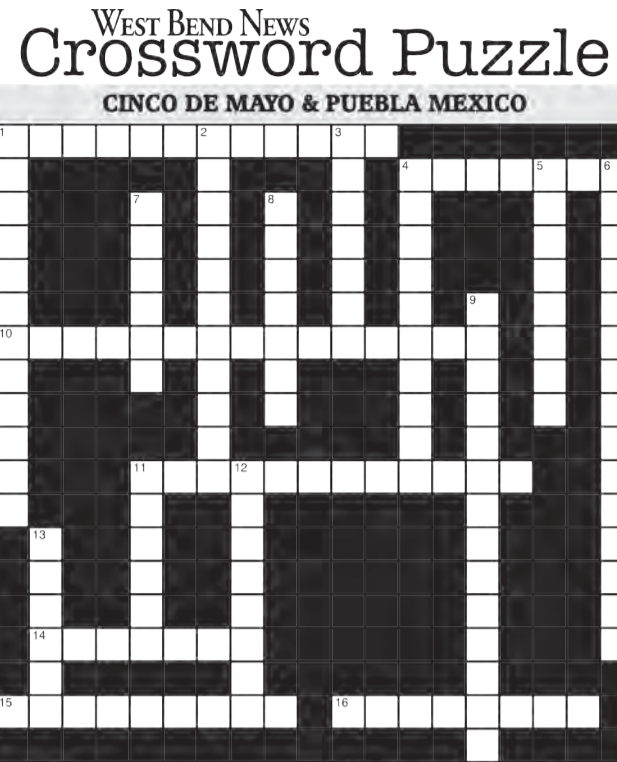
Glengary, and Meechway Lodge at their own pace—allowing for a personal, self-guided trip down memory lane.

For those looking to truly relive the magic, the Alumni Association has announced that overnight camping accommodations will be available. Families can reserve an Adirondack Cabin or pitch a tent and spend a night under the stars, recreating the quintessential Lakota experience.

Event Highlights:

- Community Social & Dinner: Connect with old friends from across Northwest Ohio, Northeast Indiana, and the entire country with an afternoon tailgate. Continue the conversation over a catered meal at our anniversary after-party.
Accessible Transit: On-site shuttles will be available throughout the day to ensure alumni of all ages and abilities can reach their favorite spots across the camp.
The 75th Anniversary Museum: A massive, one-day presentation of historical artifacts, photos, and memorabilia dating back to 1951.
The Remembrance Wall: A dedicated space for alumni to share stories and honor those who helped build the camp.

For more information, to register for overnight camping, or to inquire about sponsorship, please visit www.lakota75.com or contact Sean Jones at 614-371-0532.



- Across
1. Often mistaken as the meaning of Cinco de Mayo.
4. Local sandwich specialty from Puebla.
10. Mexican general who led forces to victory.
11. Country where Cinco de Mayo is widely celebrated today.
14. Architectural style seen in many Puebla churches.
15. Prominent landmark in Puebla's historic center.
16. Region in Puebla known for traditional crafts.
Down
1. Dormant volcano often paired with Popocatepetl in legend.
2. French ruler who ordered the invasion.
3. Town in Puebla known for its large pyramid.
4. U.S. state where early celebrations of Cinco de Mayo began.
5. Industry important to Puebla's economy.
6. Revolutionary figures from Puebla.
7. European country that invaded Mexico.
8. Indigenous language still spoken in the region.
9. The purpose of this battle was to defend Mexico against the invading French army
11. Organization that designated Puebla's historic center as a World Heritage Site.
12. Traditional ceramic pottery produced in Puebla.
13. Mexican city where the famous battle occurred.

solution on page 11

PUBLIC NOTICE TO HICKSVILLE RESIDENTS

The Hicksville Water Department will be conducting routine hydrant flushing during the overnight hours on May 20 and May 21.

Residents may notice temporary water discoloration or reduced pressure during this time. This is a standard maintenance procedure to ensure water quality and system reliability.

For questions or more information, please contact the Administrator's Office at 419-542-6138, ext. 6.

Cory Wann, Administrator Village of Hicksville

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://pauldning.sheriffsaleauction.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.pauldningohsheriff.com

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

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 Holtzberry

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 Holtzberry

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

PAULDING COUNTY SARAH JO HARPEL CLERK OF COURTS

2026 APR 21 PM 3:47

circumstances.

You are required to answer the complaint within 28 days after the last date of publication of this Notice, which will be published once a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, the date of the last publication will be on June 1, 2026 and the 28 days for answer will commence on that date.

If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time stated, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.

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

Signature of Sarah Jo Harpel, Clerk

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

First Financial Bank, Plaintiff, vs. Lorraine L. Schall, Deceased, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 106 Pursuant to an Order of Sale in the above-entitled action, the following real estate will be offered for sale:

10190 Road 171, Oakwood, Parcel Number: 08-17C-011-00, 08-17C-011-01, 08-17C-010-00 & 08-17C-010-01

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 Seventy-Two Thousand and NO/100 (\$72,000.00) 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 June 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

https://pauldning.sheriffsaleauction.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 18, 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.pauldningohsheriff.com

Benjamin N. Hoen & Ricardo L. Johnstone, Attorney for Plaintiff

## SECOND GRADERS EXPLORE THE WORLD OF TREES THROUGH HANDS-ON LEARNING



Pictured above are (l-r, front row) Dawson Blair, Paisley Brobst. Back row left to right Liam Messman, Kane Garber, Harley Troyer, Mason Gutierrez, Anna Gurnery SWCD and Cecelia Manz.

Written by Anna Gurney, Outreach and Education Specialist, Paulding SWCD

Paulding, OH — On Tuesday, May 28th, the Paulding Soil and Water Conservation District teamed up with Paulding FFA students, and program advisors, Mrs. Staci Miller & Ms. Baylee March, to bring an interactive tree education program to Paulding Elementary second graders. Sixty-five students spent the time rotating through three hands-on learning stations designed to help them understand the parts of a tree, what trees need to grow, and why trees play such an important role in the environment. Students learned by doing

— and by becoming trees themselves. In one engaging activity, children acted out the life of a tree, competing for sunlight, water, and nutrients in a fast-paced game that brought science concepts to life. They also decorated their own tree-themed carrying bags and planted a Norway spruce seedling, donated by Paulding SWCD, in a cup to take home with them.

The program reflects Paulding SWCD's mission to provide fun, meaningful natural resource education for students of all ages. The partnership with Paulding FFA students added an extra layer of impact, giving high school students the chance to lead ac-

tivities, guide younger learners, and model stewardship.

"Watching the older students step into leadership roles and connect with the second graders was both encouraging and rewarding," shared Anna Gurney, Paulding SWCD Outreach and Education Specialist. "It's exciting to see students of different ages learning together and building appreciation for the natural world."

The program continues Paulding SWCD's commitment to conservation education and community collaboration, helping young learners grow their understanding of the environment — one student and one tree at a time.

move forward with critical repairs to its heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems. These systems are essential to ensuring that school buildings remain safe, operational, and conducive to learning throughout the year.

The need for these repairs has been underscored by recent challenges within District facilities. HVAC improvements are expected to restore cooling and heating capabilities that were significantly reduced during this past school year due to boiler and/or chiller failures. There is a growing concern of a catastrophic failure that would require more expensive re-

pairs if these issues go unaddressed. Addressing these concerns is a top priority to ensure a healthy and comfortable environment for students and staff. PEVS plans to have all students and staff in their school buildings during 2026-2027 school year.

Due to the immediate nature of these repairs, the District is currently evaluating a plan to secure approximately \$2 million in debt proceeds to address HVAC system failures. This proposal is still under development and is expected to be presented to the Board of Education for consideration at its May 19 meeting.

Superintendent Chris Etzler stated, "While we are disappointed with the levy outcome, our responsibility to provide a safe environment for our students and staff cannot be delayed. These HVAC repairs are absolutely essential. We are working diligently to identify a responsible path forward that allows us to act quickly while remaining mindful of our financial obligations. Our students and staff deserve this."

The District also recognizes that assuming new debt will require careful financial planning. As part of this process, additional budget adjustments and/or reductions will be necessary to free up resources to meet annual debt service obligations. The District will approach any such decisions thoughtfully, with a continued focus on

minimizing the impact on students and educational programs.

The District understands that taking on debt is a significant decision and one that carries long-term financial implications. Paulding EVSD is committed to transparency and fiscal responsibility and will continue to communicate openly with the community about financial decisions and future needs.

Moving forward, the District will continue to evaluate its financial outlook and explore options to address both immediate and long-term facility and operational needs. Community engagement and input will remain a priority as these discussions continue.

Paulding EVSD appreciates the continued support of its residents, families, and staff as we work together to provide quality education in a safe and secure environment.

—Chris Etzler, Superintendent  
Paulding Exempted Village School District

## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL COMPETES IN QUIZ BOWL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

On the weekend of Saturday, April 25, Paulding High School joined 153 of the top quiz bowl teams from small public high schools at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Chicago for the 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament to determine who was the best.

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

The team, in the Traditional Public Schools Division, was captained by Xander Schwab, who was joined by Gracie Ametewee, Sean Elder, Izzy Lamb, Vivi Myers, Miracle Omonayin, and Laila Stiltner. Team coach is Jon Rhodes.

Paulding was one of 22 Ohio teams competing at the national championship.

Paulding finished the preliminary rounds with a 3-7 record; then played Indian Lake in round 11, defeating them 185-170. There were some tense moments. Paulding defeated Indian Lake by the narrow margin of 185-170 during round 11.

Paulding's shot at the playoffs ended when they lost to Williamston from Michigan in round 8.

The Traditional Public Schools Division champion was the A team from Russell High School, Russell, KY. The Open Division champion was the A team from Park Tudor School Indianapolis, IN.

The 2026 Small School National Championship Tournament (Traditional Public Schools Division)'s field featured 88 teams from 21 states.

## SHEETS SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



This week, the Kiwanis Club welcomed Sarah Sheets as part of its ongoing Chamber Spotlight Series. Sarah was invited to present by Chamber Director Jill Strahley.

Sarah and her husband are co-owners of several local businesses, including The Daily Dose, The Well, and The Fuel Bar. During her presentation, Sarah shared the couple's mission of providing healthier food and beverage options to

the communities they serve.

Their businesses feature a variety of made-from-scratch menu items along with nutritious drink selections designed to promote healthier lifestyles and convenient wellness choices for customers.

Kiwanis members appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the growth of these local businesses and their positive impact on the community.

## PJHS APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown above are (from left) Mackenzie Reilly (Grade 6), Kyra Aldred (Grade 7), and Ella Zimmerman (Grade 8).

## PJHS APRIL POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown above are (from left) Melissa Ramirez Cortes (Grade 7), Beka Mericle (Grade 6), and Piper Pease (Grade 8).

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# WALLEYE AND WHITE BASS FILLING ICE CHESTS



Walleyes are still spawning in the Maumee and Sandusky Rivers. The water is up with all the rain, and you don't have to wade. Anglers are casting from boats and bank fishing and still getting daily limits, but the run will be over soon. This might be the last big fishing weekend for Ohio's favorite fish in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers. It's been an incredible spring with record numbers of Walleye being caught.

This week the Lake Erie white bass fishing is excellent, particularly in the western basin and tributaries. Active spawning runs are happening right now in the Maumee and Sandusky rivers. Or you can try your luck on the jetty in Port Clinton, where the Jet Express comes in and out. Fishermen have already started to post pictures of ice chests overflowing with fish. Along with the white bass it's not uncommon to hook a few tasty Lake Erie Perch. The fish seem to school together at this time

of year before heading back out to their comfort zone for the summer 40-50 feet below the surface.

Before you trailer your boat to Lake Erie, be sure to check out the marine weather forecast. We've been using the Lake Erie Dashboard. It provides live wind, waves, and water temperature data from NOAA buoys and weather stations. Boaters and anglers can quickly check current conditions, marine forecasts, and regional lake data in one place. This past week you wouldn't want a Bass boat, Jon boat or Skiff offshore or even in Sandusky Bay. 3-5 foot waves were common and even tossing some of the larger V hull boats around.

If you want to fish for Walleye and Perch and don't know the Lake, check out the charter boat listings and play it safe. If you are new to Lake fishing and don't want to pay the big bucks for a charter boat, I suggest a head boat. Most places this is called a fishing barge or party boat. From now until the end of summer most go out twice a day depending on the weather. You'll be on with 12 to 25 other fishermen. Most Captains take the head boats out and let them drift over the reef areas. Most of these boats supply your bait. Each company has a list of what you need to bring and what they supply. Someone is always on the dock when your boat returns to clean your fish

## HELP WANTED:

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

## 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](http://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

## HELP WANTED

**VANTAGE Career Center Position Posting**  
CAREER CENTER GET THE EDGE  
Starting Date: August 2026  
Position: Criminal Justice Instructor  
Deadline: Monday, May 11, 2026

**Job Objectives:** Plans, implements, and evaluates instruction in Criminal Justice curriculum designed to address a wide range of maturity and skill levels. Within this pathway students will be introduced to the American criminal justice system, our laws, report writing, data processing, administration of justice, patrol techniques, first aid, business/industrial security, forensic science, radio communications, homeland security, dispatching, self-defense, public relations, and military drills. Assists secondary high school students with post-secondary placement. Encourages parental involvement.

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

Vantage Career Center is an Equal Opportunity Employer

# Classified Ads

## Sell it in the Classifieds!

Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.  
**Bold is \$1.00 additional.**  
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P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813  
**Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

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

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

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

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

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

**WANTED: Old toys, postcards, jewelry, coins, railroad items, watches, military collectibles, antiques, pens, stamps, comics, magazines, records. Paulding by the jail. (419) 399-3353 or txt 419-786-9514. tf**

**DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS IS FRIDAYS AT 12NOON! RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 18-20**

for a small fee, and a tip is always appreciated! To find a charter or head boat most bait and tackle stores have listings on the web sites. Check with ones in Oak Harbor, Port Clinton, Huron, and Sandusky. Ron Burt [www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz](http://www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz)

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Jason L. Jackson of Grover Hill, Ohio, had two junk ordinance charges dismissed, with court costs waived.

Annette K. Jackson of Grover Hill, Ohio, had two junk ordinance charges dismissed, with court costs waived

James A. Wright of Grover Hill, Ohio, had two junk ordinance charges dismissed, with court costs waived. In a separate case, Wright entered a guilty plea and was convicted of a loud dog violation. He was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs.

Shawn D. Theis of Cecil, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of domestic violence. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$205 in court costs. This was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, placement on one year of standard probation, no contact with the victim, completion of an evaluation and treatment, and a risk assessment.

Elijah M. Bond of Chicago, Illinois, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Ali Ahmad Sobh of Saint Clair Shores, Michigan, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Xu Chen of Richmond Hill, Ontario, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Joyce L. Thornton of New Haven, Indiana, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defen-

dant.

Grace M. Blochowski of Toledo, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. In a related case, Blochowski was also convicted of failure to control and was fined \$70.

Sheena S. Tracy of Latty, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to confine a dog. She was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$178 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs.

Aubryn M. Viers of Ney, Ohio, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. She was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Michael P. Allen of La Valle, Wisconsin, was convicted of a permit violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Victor H. Hernandez Sanchez of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. In a related case, Hernandez Sanchez was also convicted of a stop sign violation and was fined \$55.

Sheena S. Tracy of Latty, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. She was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Kylee Klenz of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Rafael A. Rodriguez Garcia of Fort Wayne, Indiana, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Jacob W. Taylor of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of failure to confine a dog. He was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$87 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Cynthia L. Ripke of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driv-

ing. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

David Bidlack Jr. of Cecil, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Christopher S. Jackson of Arcadia, Indiana, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence with a high breath alcohol content. He was fined \$525 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Jackson was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 160 days suspended, and his operator's license suspension from September 4, 2021, through September 4, 2022, was deemed served. Special conditions include remaining incarcerated for 11 days. Related charges of driving under suspension and speeding were dismissed.

Ryan E. Hogans of Louisville, Kentucky, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs. Special conditions include the defendant paid in full.

Matthew J. Hahn of Grover Hill, Ohio, had a charge of domestic violence dismissed with prejudice, with court costs waived.

Gary D. Sentel of Cecil, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$116 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

Ignacio D. Rios of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Rios was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 28 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

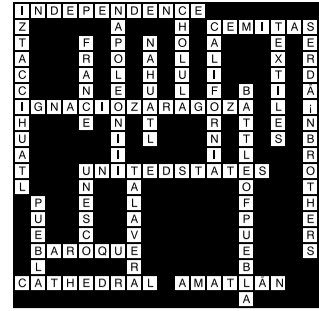
Salahaddin N. Saleh of Melvindale, Michigan, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Richard E. Riffe II of Wauseon, Ohio, was convicted of a registration violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Allison M. Schmitz of Kalida, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Randi R. Hatlevig of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Jack W. Lane of Delphos, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.



Crossword solution from page 9

Thomas M. Stephens of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a traffic device/sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Kenneth Branham of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of domestic violence. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Branham was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 101 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, following all terms of probation in Henry County, no unlawful contact with the victim, signing a release of information, and removal of GPS monitoring the same day. He had a charge of making a false alarm dismissed per the state, with court costs assessed to the defendant in the amount of \$127. In a separate case, Branham was convicted of violating a protection order. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Branham was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all of which were ordered served. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

Jesse J. Monroe of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of riot and criminal damaging. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$136.50 in court costs. Monroe was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 173 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, maintaining general good behavior, no contact with victims, and vacation of a jury trial. A related falsification charge was dismissed.

Maleeha M. Schaffer of Haviland, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

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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

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.

# PAULDING COUNTY CARNEGIE LIBRARY AWARDS COMMUNITY CENTER CONSTRUCTION AWARD



Pictured (l-r) are TJ Thieken, and Scott Spengler, Rupp Rosebrock; Jason Vance, Paulding Village; Ben Kauser, Ben Kauser Excavating; Tim Copsey, PCED; Corey Walker, Paulding County Carnegie Library; Mark Holtzberry, Paulding County Commissioners; and Terry Wehrkamp, Paulding County Carnegie Library.

The Paulding County Carnegie Library (PCCL) Board of Directors and administrative team have officially advanced to the next phase of a major development initiative: the construction of a new Community Center on the site of the former library annex. This project marks a historic step forward for the 110-year-old institution, which has long lacked adequate space to host public programs and events larger than 20 attendees.

The new Community Center will be built on adjacent property formerly occupied by the office of Dr. Kirkwood Pritchard and, more recently, the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry and the Buy the Book store. The new facility is designed to serve as a flexible, modern hub for educational programming, community forums, scholastic instruction, bilingual training, emergency shelter needs, and expanded

library and community events.

The project began to take shape in July 2023 when PCCL received an anonymous matching-fund donation specifically designated for the development of a community center. This transformative gift enabled the library to begin working with the Paulding County Land Bank, Paulding County Economic Development, and the Maumee Valley Planning Organization to remove the aging existing structure and explore options for a replacement facility.

The previous annex, originally constructed as a physician's office, has served many community functions over the decades — including OhioMeansJobs, ACE Academy, Caring & Sharing Food Pantry, Buy the Book, and library storage. In recent years, the building required significant repairs, prompting the need for a long-term solution.

Buy the Book has since been relocated to 108 N. Williams Street, where it now shares space at The Fuel Bar.

In September 2024, PCCL issued a Request for Qualifications for architectural services and selected Beilharz Architects of Defiance, Ohio. Over the following months, the library and design team collaborated to create a plan that incorporates advanced technology, flexible event space, and a layout that strengthens the library's role as an anchor in downtown Paulding. The proposed design includes seating for approximately 100 people, kitchen facilities, office and meeting room space, and a dedicated retail area for the return of the Buy the Book store.

With the demolition of the former annex now complete, the project has moved into its construction phase. At the March 31 board meeting, Rupp Rosebrock was awarded

the contract and will lead the build-out of the new Community Center.

The new Community Center represents a once-in-a-generation investment in downtown Paulding and in the future of the Paulding County Carnegie Library. Construction is expected to begin soon, with updates to be shared as the project progresses.

## PAULDING MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY GUEST SPEAKER: CAPTAIN GUY DENNIS GRUTERS VIETNAM WAR VETERAN



John Paulding VFW Post 587 is hosting their annual Memorial Day Ceremony at Live Oak Cemetery in Paulding, Ohio, on Monday, May 25, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. This community event honors fallen service members and will feature Captain Guy Dennis Gruters as the guest speaker.

Captain Guy Dennis Gruters was a United States Air Force officer and fighter pilot best known for his survival for over five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam. He was one of the five hundred and ninety-one surviving POWs of all military services released in 1973 for return to

the United States during Operation Homecoming.

Captain Gruters' decorations include more than thirty combat awards, with two Silver Stars, two Distinguished

Flying Crosses, two Purple Hearts, three Bronze Star Medals for Valor, the POW Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation, over 20 Air Medals and other medals.

## UNITED WAY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM HELPS PAULDING COUNTY HOUSEHOLDS ACHIEVE HOUSING STABILITY



Pictured above are (l-r) Chad Pittman, Greg Goebel, Arianna Posey, Lora Lyons, Brad Harsha, and Kyle Luth.

The United Way of Paulding County is proud to announce the success of a new Rental Assistance Program made possible through a partnership with the Northwest Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC). The program was funded through a \$5,000 grant from First Financial Bank, which was matched by the United Way of Paulding County, allowing a total of \$10,000 in rental assistance to be provided to local residents in need.

The program was created to help individuals and families facing financial hardship, remain safely housed during challenging times. Through this collaborative effort, a total of eight households in Paulding County received assistance.

Households assisted included:

- Female-led multigenerational household
- Single female household
- Female with one child
- Married couple with two children
- Single female with four children
- Single male household
- Single female household

In addition to helping prevent housing instability, the program also focused on long-term self-sufficiency through financial coaching

support with interview preparation, study skills, and gaining greater independence.

Another participant received rental assistance and completed two coaching sessions before continuing voluntarily with additional support beginning in March. Coaching focused on resume writing, job searching, career development, and financial literacy. Although she is no longer formally enrolled in the program, the coach continues to stay in contact periodically as she works toward paying down debt and maintaining financial independence.

"Stable housing is critical for the health and wellbeing of families and individuals," stated Lora Lyons of United Way of Paulding County. "This partnership allowed us to respond directly to local needs and provide meaningful assistance to residents facing difficult circumstances while also helping individuals build long-term stability and independence."

The United Way of Paulding County extends its sincere appreciation to First Financial Bank for its investment in the community and to NOCAC for helping administer and coordinate the program.

# SIZZLE & SMOKE

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**5 pkgs Bacon Cheddar Brats** (4 ct.)

**5 pkgs Jalapeno Cheddar Brats** (4 ct.)

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**AMERICA 250**

**BETHEL CHURCH**

AT

**FORDER BRIDGE**

*Invites the PUBLIC to receive a free meal in celebration of religious liberty*

**Saturday May 23rd**  
**11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

*Carry out available.*

*Location will be at the Bethel Church 8019 Rd 192 Cecil, OH.*

**Questions? Contact 419-258-0527**