

HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026 TOP SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED

Harlan Christian School:



Dylan Cobbs

Harlan Christian School Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Dylan Cobbs**, who graduated with a 10.5 GPA. Dylan is the son of Matt and Glaine Cobbs and plans to run his own business after graduation. He said business has been a passion of his since he was in eighth grade.

Throughout high school, Dylan participated in basketball, volleyball, soccer, and tutoring activities. His accomplishments and recognitions include receiving numerous athletic awards such as Heart and Hustle honors, captain's medals, Most Improved awards, and academic awards for achieving the highest overall grades in his respective sports. Dylan will also be recognized as this year's Valedictorian.

Outside of school, Dylan enjoys playing basketball, chess, and games such as Warhammer 40K, along with reading books.

His most memorable high school experience was winning the senior basketball tournament, which was the final tournament of his high school career and resulted in making the newspaper.

Heritage High School:



Corban Roth

Heritage High School Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Corban Roth**, who

graduated with a 4.338 GPA. Corban is the son of Josh and Bonnie Roth and plans to attend Trine University to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Corban said he chose the field because he enjoys solving problems and doing math.

Throughout high school, Corban participated in Cross Country, Track, Basketball, Volleyball, Student Council, National Honor Society, and Football. His accomplishments and recognitions include earning Academic All-State honors, First Team All-Conference recognition, College Board National Recognition, the First-Generation Recognition Award, and the Rural and Small Town Recognition Award.

Outside of school, Corban enjoys sports, attending church activities, and bike riding.



Lucas Weber

Heritage High School Class of 2026 recognizes Salutatorian **Lucas Weber**, who graduated with a 4.3 GPA. Lucas is the son of Joy and Brian Weber and plans to attend either Purdue University or Bowling Green State University to pursue studies related to Anesthesiology, Neuroscience, and Biomedical Health Services.

Throughout high school, Lucas participated in Football, Track, Volleyball, and volunteered at the Food Bank. His accomplishments and recognitions include earning Presidential Scholarships to both Purdue University and Bowling Green State University, along with College Board Recognition honors.

Leo High School:

Leo High School Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Kendall Melchi**, who graduated with a 4.426 GPA. Kendall is the daughter of Jen-

PAULDING VFW MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS

9:00 a.m. - Rochester Cemetery, Cecil

Pastor Ric Beals Speaker, Pastor of Paulding First Christian Church

Boy Scout Troop 315 and Cub Scout Pack 1317

Vocalist Dan Wilder VFW Post 587 Color Guard

VFW Post 587 Auxiliary

11:00 a.m. - Live Oak Cemetery, Paulding

Pastor Bud Larimore Invocation, Pastor of Oakwood and Melrose Community Churches

Capt. Guy Gruters Guest Speaker, United States Air Force Fighter Pilot, Prisoner of War over 5 years in Vietnam

Paulding High School Band

Boy Scout Troop 315 and Cub Scout Pack 1317

VFW Post 587 Color Guard

VFW Post 587 Auxiliary

Complimentary Lunch at VFW Post 587

MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE PLANNED IN ANTWERP

Antwerp VFW Post 5087 will host a Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 25th with a small parade leaving from the VFW and marching to the Riverside Veterans Memorial. A brief ceremony will follow at the memorial, with Mark Holtsberry serving as the guest speaker. Following the program, light snacks will be served at the VFW Hall.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES IN GROVER HILL

Grover Hill VFW will be hosting a Memorial Day Service on Monday May 25, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Middle Creek Cemetery, 19367 Road 24 Grover Hill, OH.



Kendall Melchi

nifer Melchi and Scott Melchi and plans to attend Purdue University to pursue a degree in Biomedical Engineering. Kendall said biomedical engineering combines the two career interests she has always debated between, and discovering the field provided the perfect balance while opening opportunities for many future career paths.

Throughout high school, Kendall participated in Ten-

(Continued on Page 6)

VANTAGE CAP SIGNING DAY



Pictured are Vantage Career Center seniors Clayton Manz and Tyler Zura signing with Alexander & Bebout during the Vantage Career Advanced Placement (CAP) Signing Day ceremony.

Vantage Career Center proudly celebrated its high school seniors during the annual Career Advanced Placement (CAP) Signing Day Ceremony held Friday, May 8, in the Commons. The event recognized students who have committed to entering the workforce, military service, and career training opportunities after graduation using the hands-on skills and industry training they developed during their time at Vantage.

More than 35 local employers and over 50 students participated in this year's ceremony, highlighting the strong partnerships between Vantage Career Center and the region's workforce. Similar to an athletic signing day, students were individually recognized as they officially committed to careers in high-demand fields including healthcare, agriculture, skilled trades, manufacturing, technology, automotive, construction, public service, and military service.

Families, instructors, administrators, employer partners, military representatives, and community supporters gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of

2026 and the bright futures ahead.

Vantage Career Center was also honored to welcome Dee Smith, Executive Director of The Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education who presented signing certificates alongside Vantage administration during the ceremony.

Throughout the event, students signed alongside representatives from businesses, organizations, and military branches across the region, symbolizing their transition from classroom to career. Many students will begin full-time employment immediately after graduation, while others will continue appren-

(Continued on Page 3)

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PC Veteran's Service	4
PC WMEA	4
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PUZZLE - Sudoku	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Schmucker Decks	1
T&C Concrete	1
UE Ketterle Trust Auction	7
UE Lost Lease Liquidation Auction	7
Woodburn & Grabill Hardware	12

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 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
- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a

May 21

- Game Night @ Antwerp Library, 5-6p

May 23

- America 250 Celebrating Liberty Meal @ Bethel Church, Cecil, 11a-2p
- Grover Hill Alumni Banquet @ Grover Hill Community Club, 1p

May 25

- Grover Hill VFW Memorial Day Service @ Middle Creek Cemetery, 11a
- Paulding VFW Memorial Day Services: @ Rochester Cemetery, 9a; @ Live Oak Cemetery, 11a
- Antwerp VFW Memorial Day Service @ Riverside Veterans Memorial Park, 10a

May 26

- Beeswax Wrap Class @ Antwerp Library, 3p



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OBITUARIES



13, 1947 in Convoy, OH to the late Ervin and Elizabeth (Burk) Fabian. On September 3, 1966, she married James Scott, who preceded her in death in 2011. Donna worked in food service for Paulding Exempted Village Schools for 13 years before her retirement in 2009. She was a member of the Know Your Neighbor Club and Paulding Church of the Nazarene. Donna loved gardening, crocheting, and traveling.

Donna will be lovingly missed by her children: James "Jim" (Theresa) Scott, Huntertown, IN; Kimberly (Josh) Grimes, Oakwood, OH; Kristina (Jamie) Varner, Paulding, OH; brother, Edward (Faith) Fabian, Convoy, OH; sister-in-law, Robin Fabian, Van Wert, OH; 8 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Donna was also preceded in death by her brothers, Ervin "Butch" Fabian, Raymond Fabian, Paul Fabian; grandson, Kyle Varner.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Paulding Church of the Nazarene with Pastor Doug Shilts officiating. Burial will follow in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home. There will also be visitation from 10:00 A.M. until time of services on Thursday at the church.

Memorial contributions may be made in Donna's memory to Paulding Church of the Nazarene.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.

FORT WAYNE, IN:

Dorothy Jean Helms, 83, of Fort Wayne, passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at Parkview Regional Medical Center. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

HAVILAND, OH:

Delilah Rose Hodge, passed from the arms of her parents to the joy of heaven on Friday, April 17, 2026. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

ANTWERP, OH:

Thomas Opal Rinehart passed away peacefully on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 5:10 PM in the evening surrounded by his beloved daughters and sons-in-law after an extended battle with Parkinson's disease. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

WOODBURN, IN:

Donna J. Fry, 88, of Woodburn, IN, died peacefully on Friday, May 8, 2026 at The Cedars in Leo, IN. Fond memories may be shared at dooleyfuneralhome.com.

PAYNE, OH:

Jeanette R. Swary, 97, of Payne, Ohio, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family on Monday, May 4, 2026, at Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne,

Indiana. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.

WOODBURN, IN:

Samuel Colin Edwards, age 21, of Woodburn, Indiana passed away peacefully at home on May 8, 2026 surrounded by family. Arr by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne.



GROVER HILL, OH:

Patricia L. "Trish" Benard, age 60, passed away on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at her daughter's home in Ayersville, OH.

Trish was born on June 10, 1965 in Paulding, OH to Theodore "Ted" and Evelyn (Harp) King. On May 21, 1988 she married Charles Benard, who survives. Trish worked as a manager of group homes for CSRI for 15 years. She loved sewing, crafts, and gardening flowers. Trish was a natural caregiver, she loved her job. More than anything, she loved her home with Charlie.

Trish will be lovingly missed by her parents, Ted and Evelyn King, Haviland, OH; husband, Charles Benard, Grover Hill, OH; son, Ted (Cassandra) King, Van Wert, OH; daughter, Leslie (Stan) Ankney, Ayersville, OH; stepdaughter, Amber Benard, Defiance, OH; brother, Richard (Darlene) King, Richmond, KY; sisters: Sandy (Eric) Ludwig, Grover Hill, OH; Joanna (Brad) Deel, Bryan, OH; 7 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Trish was preceded in death by her brother, Ted C. King.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Inurnment will take place in St. Paul Cemetery, Paulding Township, OH.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.



PAULDING, OH:

Ivan R. Arend, age 92, passed away on Thursday, May 14, 2026 at Community Health Professionals Inpatient Hospice, Defiance, OH.

Ivan was born on September 16, 1933 in Mark Center, OH to the late Herman F. and Elsie (Gordon) Arend. On February 19, 1955 he married Patricia Hoffman, who survives. Ivan was a lifetime, self-employed farmer. He was a member of the Paulding Knights of Columbus,

the Federal Land Bank Board, and the Farm Bureau. He was a devoted member of Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, Paulding. Ivan served his country in the Ohio National Guard. He loved bowling, golfing, collecting antique tractors, tractor pulling, and his 1965 red corvette. Most importantly, he loved his family and attending his grandchildren's athletic events.

Ivan will be sadly missed by his wife, Patricia, Paulding, OH; daughters: Debbie (David) Smith, Corbin, KY; Diane (Doug) Goyins, Paulding, OH; Sheryl (Don) Wannemacher, Defiance, OH; Patty (Mike) Cramer, New Albany, OH; Brenda (Greg) Troyer, Oakwood, OH; 12 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Ivan was also preceded in death by his brothers: Herman G. Arend, Jr. and Russel J. Arend; sisters: Alma Mae Thornell, Donna Proxmire, and Helen Sauber; son-in-law, Greg Troyer.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at Divine Mercy Catholic Parish, Paulding with Father Austin Ammanniti officiating. Burial will follow in Paulding Memorial Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Monday, May 18, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home with a rosary service beginning at 7:30 P.M.

Memorial contributions may be made in Ivan's memory to Divine Mercy Catholic Parish.

Online condolences may be shared at www.denherderfh.com.

ODOT KICKING OFF ANOTHER RECORD CONSTRUCTION SEASON

Spring in Ohio means orange barrels and renewed investment in Ohio's infrastructure. The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is kicking off a record-breaking \$3.4 billion construction season statewide.

The 2026 construction season includes a total of 977 projects. This year, 739 bridges and approximately 4,562 miles of roadway, equivalent to driving from Columbus to San Diego, California, and back, are set to be improved. Eighty cents of every dollar invested this year will go directly to preservation of existing roads and bridges.

This construction season will also include the start of 174 safety projects. Ohio continues to spend more per capita than any other state when it comes to roadway safety.

"As a state that makes and moves things, we must have a safe transportation system that is well maintained," said Governor Mike DeWine. "As they do each year, our ODOT teams will be making enhancements to Ohio's roadways to better protect everyone traveling on them."

Since the beginning of the DeWine Administration in 2019, ODOT has invested \$15.5 billion into 6,067 projects across the state.

"This record-setting construction season is a testament to ODOT's focus on building a more resilient transportation system and saving lives," said ODOT Director Pamela Boratyn. "This investment positions Ohio as the heart of the nation's supply chain and continues to fuel the state's economic engine."

Locally, ODOT kicked off highway construction season today at the former weigh station on Interstate 75 in Wood

Scripture of the Week

"As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things."

— Ecclesiastes 11:5

PSALMS 34:8



Psalm 34:8 (NIV): "Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

This verse invites us to experience God's goodness firsthand. The imagery of tasting and seeing suggests a deep, personal encounter with the divine, akin to savoring a delicious meal or witnessing something beautiful. It's not just about intellectual knowledge or secondhand accounts; it encourages believers to engage with their faith actively.

When it says, "blessed is the one who takes refuge in him," it highlights the security and protection found in God. In times of trouble or uncertainty, turning to God provides comfort and safety. This verse reassures us of the joy and fulfillment that come from trusting in Him.

In this context, "tasting and seeing" can also imply that once we experience God's goodness, we cannot help but recognize and share it with others. It's an invitation to explore the depths of God's love and grace, reminding us that faith is both a personal journey and a shared testimony.

For those seeking hope or solace in difficult times, this verse encourages them to lean into their relationship with God, assuring them that doing so brings peace and blessing.

So, if you are hungry all the time, and nothing seems to satisfy your appetite, try Jesus. He will fill you up. God bless you.

Peace & Love,
—Pastor Dwayne

County where work to construct 16 commercial truck parking spaces at the site, located north of State Route 281, began March 2 and is expected to complete mid April.

A total of 144 truck parking spaces will be constructed at decommissioned highway weigh stations throughout Ohio as part of the state's response to a national need for truck parking.

In addition to converting highway weigh stations, the first projects to construct truck parking within a larger statewide initiative will begin this year. In northwest Ohio, 65 spaces will be constructed along U.S. 33 at Willipie Street in Auglaize County, and 50 spaces will be added at the eastbound and westbound rest areas on U.S. 30 in Wyandot County.

"Sleep is key to safety, and finding a safe place to sleep is more of a challenge than it should be for our nation's truckers, and it is a challenge I have faced too many times during my time behind the wheel," said Scott Greneth, former truck driver and truck parking advocate. "ODOT's multi-pronged approach to increasing truck parking capacity will lead to safer roads for everyone," he said.

Other notable projects in northwest Ohio beginning in 2026:

- Allen & Hancock County - Interstate 75 Resurfacing The \$3.1 million dollar project will microsurface I-75 between the Auglaize County line to the concrete pavement just south of the 4th Street interchange in Allen County, and between County Road 313 and U.S. 224 in Hancock

County. Work is scheduled for completion by this fall.

- Wood County - I-75 and I-475 Resurfacing A project to resurface Interstate 75 and Interstate 475 in the vicinity of the Perrysburg interchange, and Interstate 475 from Interstate 75 to the Maumee River. The project also includes leveling the approach slabs leading onto and off the W. Dussel Drive/Salisbury Road bridge over I-475. Construction is estimated to be complete this fall.

- Henry County - Replacement of existing pavement on U.S. 6/U.S. 24 from the U.S. 6 interchange to the Maumee River, Henry County. The project will occur over three construction seasons.

- Construction of roundabouts:

- State Route 117/State Route 501, Allen County
- State Route 15/Ralston Avenue, Defiance County
- U.S. 68/State Route 31, Hardin County
- U.S. 20A and Strayer Road, Lucas County
- U.S. 20 and State Street, Sandusky County
- U.S. 224/Lincoln Highway, Van Wert County

- Local projects that will continue:
- Reconstruction and re-configuration of the U.S. 23 interchange with State Route 51 (Monroe Street/Alexis Road), city of Sylvania, Lucas County.
- Interchange construction at U.S. 24 and County Road 17D, Henry County.
- Roundabout construction at State Route 269 and Danbury Road, Ottawa County

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PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paulding High School recently announced their April Students of the Month. Pictured above are (l-r) Freshman Rooney Gutierrez Cortes, Sophomore Nick Schlueter, Junior Leonel Reyes, and Senior Addison Pease.

YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



May 1936: Rural electrification begins when articles of incorporation are signed for Paulding Putnam Electric Co-operative. The first pole was set less than two years later. At right is Guy Bidlack, one of the incorporators.

By: MELINDA KRICK

It Happened in May ...

Many important and memorable events in Paulding County history have taken place in the month of May:

1841 - Shadrach Hudson, the first settler in Paulding County, passed away May 17 in Auglaize Township, just shy of his 70th birthday. He was born May 31, 1771, in New Jersey. At the age of 18, he enlisted as a soldier under Gen. St. Clair, and was in the bloody conflict of 1793, on the Wabash, now known as Ft. Recovery; only seven, besides himself, survived to be discharged. Last fall, he was taken with the prevailing disease of the country and in the spring he was again taken down and after a few days yielded to death. Died, also on the same day, Mrs. [Lydia] Hudson. She too was a native of New Jersey, born Dec. 18, 1775. The disease of which she died was the most painful - that of cancer. The proximity of her death and that of her husband to each other, is worthy of remark. She expired at 9 o'clock a.m., and he at 11 a.m., on the same day. They married in 1794 and lived to see a large family of children grow up.

1898 - The Nickel Plate has a new iron bridge over the tunnel on First Street in Oakwood.

1899 - Timber Scarce: The available supply for factory purposes is about exhausted;

The mills in this part of Ohio are compelled to discontinue buying on account of the scarcity. The vast forests of prime timber that existed in this part of Ohio at one time are about exhausted. The pioneer rolled logs, burned, destroyed and wasted it in the early days of his advent here to make a "clearing" for crops. Of the many busy factories once located in this county, there remains only here and there a straggling one that runs but a portion of the year and the last one of these must soon close down for want of material.

1901 - A very back wreck occurred on the Nickel Plate R.R. at Melrose. The watchman who tends the drawbridge over the canal at that place had swung the bridge to let a canal boat pass when one of the fast freight trains came into sight. The morning was so foggy that the engineer could not see the signal to stop and the engine with one car load of hides ran into the canal. No one was seriously hurt.

1903 - The large stove, heading and hoop mill, formerly known as the Eagle Stave Works, at Latty, owned by the Fort Wayne Cooperage Co., was entirely destroyed by fire. The plant, a landmark of that village, had been in operation for about 20 years and at one time employed a large force of men. The mill was practically the only industry

the town had.

1909 - The cornerstone of the new church of St. Mary, Junction, the best and most flourishing Catholic congregation in the county, was blessed and laid last Sunday. More than 2,300 people from all parts of the county were gathered to witness the solemn ceremony.

1912 - President William H. Taft and ex-President [Theodore] Roosevelt both will be here this week. It is not often a town the size of Paulding is honored by the presence of the two most prominent citizens of the nation. Mr. Roosevelt speaks here today. President Taft will be here Saturday. It will be the first time a president ever visited this town.

1916 - The Catholic Church at Latty was struck by lightning in the belfry early Sunday morning and the bolt set fire to the building and it burned to the ground. The costly altar, the organ and other articles burned with the building.

1918 - Oakwood Mayor Ritchie issued an edict to loafers and panhandlers: Go to work or go to jail. A fellow who does not work and who has no job though able to work will be sent to jail at once.

1919 - Prohibition went into effect in Ohio May 27. The predicted drought enveloped Paulding County as per schedule, Saturday evening. Payne, one of the "damp spots," did a heavy business until closing hour. The stock of liquors on hand being nearly depleted. It is estimated that \$10,000 was spent over the bars of the village on this date. Visitors from dry sections came to town with a thirst. It is reported that in the past few days, more drinking has been done in Payne than in the entire history of the town. Booze by the drink, quart or barrel was on sale, and found ready takers.



May 1921: Local residents dedicate an 8-foot tall wooden pillar at the site of Fort Brown. It reads: This Marker is placed on the spot where Fort Brown, the only U.S. Military Post ever erected in Paulding County was built, and also marks the last resting place of three of its defenders.

1921 - A wooden marker for old Fort Brown was dedicated on Decoration Day by local residents. The marker, 8 feet high and 28 inches square, was placed at the site of the fort, built during the War of 1812. The location has been fixed beyond a doubt by older residents who knew it when part of the structure was standing.

1934 - Recreation Park Planned for Fort Brown: Paulding County will soon have a modern recreation park. Construction is beginning of several summer cabins, a dining pavilion and drives through the grounds. The old aqueduct is to be de-

molished and the rock of its abutments will be trucked to Fort Brown to build a retaining wall to stop erosion.

1936 - The Paulding Putnam Electric Co-operative was organized May 15 at a joint meeting of the electrification committees of the two counties at the Farm Bureau office in Paulding. F.B. Wortman, Howard R. Mosier, Tom Forder and Guy Bidlack were selected as incorporators from Paulding County.

1938 - This week the work of tearing down the old aqueduct a half mile south of Melrose was commenced. This was the point where the Miami & Erie Canal went over the Little Auglaize River.

1939 - In accordance with state law, all county offices in the courthouse will be closed Saturday afternoons, starting May 1 at 12 noon.

1939 - New post office buildings are open to the public in Oakwood and Paulding. About 1,500 visitors inspected the Paulding Post Office during an open house.

1939 - The construction contractor for the Paulding Putnam Electric Cooperative Inc. is constructing distribution lines in Allen County, Ind. This cooperative has the distinction of being the first in the U.S. to cross a state line with their power.

1940 - Paulding County Memorial Hospital was dedicated, appropriately on National Hospital Day, May 12. The hospital opened in 1938 with beds for eight patients. More room and adequate equipment was needed so a new addition has been built, and by donations made by physicians, organizations and individuals, is now well equipped.

1942 - Albert M. Crosby, Paulding County's last Civil War veteran, who would have been 94 years old May 19, died at his home one mile east of Broughton. In spring 1864, Mr. Crosby enlisted at age 16 in the Union Army and served in Company H, 132nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the Civil War. An enthusiastic hunter, Mr. Crosby was credited with bagging more than 200 deer in the county and with killing the last black bear that roamed the county.

1943 - The Memorial Day observance will include the dedication of the new Paulding County Honor Roll on the west side of the square. The board will honor the brave and courageous boys and girls of our county serving in the armed forces on the battlefields of the world.

1945 - M.G. Stoller was surprised while driving along on U.S. 127 about two miles south of town. A large doe deer suddenly appeared, coming across country headed in an easterly direction then turned and went back west into the Floyd Cook timberland. Its presence was something of a novelty for this part of the country.

1950 - The Auglaize-Brown Local School District is created from all the territories of Brown Local School District and Auglaize Local District, effective July 1.

1963 - The New York, Chicago and St. Louis "Nickel Plate" Railroad will discontinue its two passenger trains that stop at Oakwood. This will be the first time there hasn't been a passenger stop in Oakwood. Also, there will be no more express picked up or received at the depot after

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Clifford Lee Harrison Thompson was born March 2, 1889, in Cecil, the son of Frank William Thompson, who was born June 4, 1864, in Sandusky, and Rose Adeline (Ankney) Thompson, who was born November 28, 1874, in Paulding County. Rosa's father, Joshua Ankney, was a Civil War veteran who served out of Defiance. Frank and Rosa were married May 18, 1888, in Paulding.

By 1900, the couple was living with their children: Clifford, born in 1889; Frank H. Jr., born in June 1894; and Murl A., born in November 1895. Frank Sr. was working as a painter. Frank Sr.'s mother, Laura A. Thompson, was also living with the family. Clifford was attending school.

By 1910, the Thompson family was living on Plum Street in Cecil. Frank Sr. was still painting homes, while Clifford was working odd jobs. Frank Jr. and Murl were attending school.

On June 5, 1917, in Cecil, Clifford registered for the World War I draft. He was described as tall and slender,

with light blue eyes and light brown hair, and was working odd jobs and painting. Murl also registered for the draft but was not selected.

On June 25, 1918, Clifford joined the National Army in Paulding. He served with the 16th Company, 4th Training Battalion, 158th Depot Brigade. Clifford injured his back while in service and had previously noted back problems on his draft registration. He was later classified as 8% disabled through a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability.

On December 24, 1918, Clifford married Evalena Leona Kenworthy. She was born September 14, 1902, in Lafayette. The couple was married in Fort Wayne. Clifford received an honorable discharge on June 24, 1919.

By 1920, Clifford and Leona were living on Pass Street in Clear Creek, Georgetown, Colorado. They later moved back to Allen County, Indiana, after Clifford became ill. Clifford was admitted to Parkview Memorial Hospital on April 26, 1920. He passed away at 10:18 p.m. on May 13, 1920, from tuberculosis of the lungs.

He was buried May 17, 1920, at Rochester Cemetery in the old section, Lot 146, Grave 1.

Clifford's wife, Evalena, later remarried a man from New Haven. She passed away August 1, 1947, and was buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery alongside her second husband.

Clifford's father, Frank Sr., passed away in 1950. Clifford's mother, Rosa, passed away in 1964. Frank Jr. died in 1974, followed by Murl in 1984. All were buried in Rochester Cemetery.

...Until Next Time!

(Continued from Page 1)

June 1.

1964 - One of the most spectacular train wrecks in years on the Nickel Plate Railroad occurred when 61 cars and four diesel engines of a 107-car freight train derailed after hitting a semi trailer outfit on the grade crossing in Melrose. The truck driver was critically injured and later died. The crash piled up freight cars like cord wood and tore up nearly one-third mile of track. Railroad officials estimate damage will exceed \$1.5 million.

1971 - The Paulding County School Board met in special session regarding district reorganization. The board, by a 3-2 vote, transferred all of the territory of the Blue Creek Local Schools and Grover Hill Local Schools to the adjoining Payne Local School District. The board unanimously approved a second resolution to transfer all of the territory of Auglaize-Brown Local Schools to the adjoining Paulding Exempted Village School District.

1997 - Paulding Mayor Vera Miles invites the public to attend the official street-lighting ceremonies on the courthouses square. The 28 historic-type lights have been installed as part of a downtown revitalization grant project.

with light blue eyes and light brown hair, and was working odd jobs and painting. Murl also registered for the draft but was not selected.

On June 25, 1918, Clifford joined the National Army in Paulding. He served with the 16th Company, 4th Training Battalion, 158th Depot Brigade. Clifford injured his back while in service and had previously noted back problems on his draft registration. He was later classified as 8% disabled through a Surgeon's Certificate of Disability.

On December 24, 1918, Clifford married Evalena Leona Kenworthy. She was born September 14, 1902, in Lafayette. The couple was married in Fort Wayne. Clifford received an honorable discharge on June 24, 1919.

By 1920, Clifford and Leona were living on Pass Street in Clear Creek, Georgetown, Colorado. They later moved back to Allen County, Indiana, after Clifford became ill. Clifford was admitted to Parkview Memorial Hospital on April 26, 1920. He passed away at 10:18 p.m. on May 13, 1920, from tuberculosis of the lungs.

He was buried May 17, 1920, at Rochester Cemetery in the old section, Lot 146, Grave 1.

Clifford's wife, Evalena, later remarried a man from New Haven. She passed away August 1, 1947, and was buried at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery alongside her second husband.

Clifford's father, Frank Sr., passed away in 1950. Clifford's mother, Rosa, passed away in 1964. Frank Jr. died in 1974, followed by Murl in 1984. All were buried in Rochester Cemetery.

...Until Next Time!

(Continued from Page 1)

ticeships, military service, or advanced training opportunities connected to their career pathways.

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BISCUITS

**Dotting My Teas By:
Marlene Oxender**

Life before the internet – many of us remember it. There were no computers. No online tutorials. When we wanted to know something, we opened a book. We used the card catalog at the library to help us find the books we needed.

At the beginning of each school year, we were issued a stack of textbooks – one for each subject. We used our books during the school day and took some of them home each night so we could complete our homework – on lined paper. Bookbags weren't in common use back then, so we carried our books, binders, and folders home in our arms, stacked one on top of the other.

My mother must have believed her children would someday like to read their homework again, because I'm finding it now as I sort through her estate. She even kept papers that those before her had saved. And now I'm following in her footsteps – saving papers that those before me had saved.

If my mother's set of 1958 World Book Encyclopedias could speak, they'd tell me how often they'd been used,

which pages had been opened and by whose hands. They'd tell me what it's like to feel as if they'd lost their purpose and are now nothing more than a conversation piece taking up space on a shelf.

And my mother's vintage typewriter – it wrote many stories. It served her well as she wrote about times from long ago. The typewriter ribbon has dried, but I recently learned replacement ribbons are still available. I'm looking forward to typing on it once again as I show my grandchildren how it works.

My mother's "cut and paste" was literal. She used a pair of scissors to cut the pages she'd typed, then rearranged the paragraphs and taped them in place. This practice from long ago is where the phrase originated.

Like many women of her generation, my mother owned cookbooks she rarely used. Back then, most cooks simply cooked. Important recipes were written on index cards and stored in a hinged recipe box.

I watch an online cooking show in which the host, Glen, uses recipes from vintage cookbooks that viewers send to him. Glen selects a recipe, and as he cooks, he explains why things were done the way they were back then.

More than once, I've heard Glen speak of the difference between cookies and biscuits. In the UK, biscuits are what Americans would think of as cookies or crackers, and the closest thing they have to a biscuit is a scone.

My online search engine quickly caught on to my interests and began sending articles about biscuits. The little engine sent a recipe for Rasp-

PAULDING EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS PARTICIPATE IN MINI RELAY FOR LIFE



Shown in the picture are PEVS students in grades 6-12 that ran booths at mini relay this year. We hope the community of Paulding feels a sense of pride when you look at this great group of kids doing wonderful things.

This year Paulding Exempted Village Schools had another record breaking total received from their mini relay event. The American Cancer Society will be receiv-

ing \$12,318.11 to support individuals being impacted by cancer in our county.

PEVS would like to give a special thank you to the Paulding Elementary PTO

for their large contribution, The Award Shop for the t-shirt fundraiser, Ashley Foor's breakfast for donation, the junior high teachers' Friday jean money, and

to everyone that supported the booths at mini relay. PEVS would like to thank you for supporting our community and thank everyone for supporting this mission.

berry Ripple Biscuits to my home page. Then one for Tea Biscuits, followed by a recipe for 1856 Tavern Biscuits.

I wanted to know what made a biscuit a tavern biscuit, so I read about taverns, then pubs, then the difference between the two. This is why we spend more time on the internet than we intend – one bit of information leads to another. We turn the pages of our virtual encyclopedia and learn things we didn't know were there to learn – like the difference between a tavern and a pub.

My collection of biscuit recipes would not be what it is without a search engine in charge of selecting what may catch my interest. It knows I've saved recipes for Chocolate Chip Biscuits and Scottish Shortbread Biscuits. It knows how quickly I clicked on to the recipe for Pickle Biscuits.

After our kittens were born, I learned that cats "make biscuits" as they knead away on their owners' laps. And woodworkers know how to make a biscuit joint by using small pieces of wood and a biscuit joiner.

My mother never used the internet to look up information about kitties and biscuits and things we'd like to know. She did, however, learn how to type and send an email. Her children were grateful for her daily updates. We loved how she didn't correct her typing errors as we read what she had to say.

And such is life – a place where we keep our metaphorical typewriter up to date. Where we may start again with a fresh piece of paper and a new ribbon. Where we learn to live with our mistakes as we add to and delete from our story.

My mother's books and recipe cards are mostly unused now, but what she loved still lingers: the belief that words and knowledge mattered enough to save. So I keep turning pages – sometimes paper, sometimes digital – carrying forward what she held dear and adding my own small notes in the margins.

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

PAULDING FFA ATTENDS THE 98th ANNUAL OHIO FFA STATE CONVENTION



Pictured here are the 27 Paulding FFA members who attended FFA State Convention with Jeff Holtsberry, our Honorary State Degree Recipient from Paulding in the middle.

**By: Makenna Manz,
Paulding FFA Reporter**

On April 30th, 2026, the Paulding FFA Chapter took twenty-seven students and two FFA Advisors to attend the 98th Ohio FFA State Convention at the Ohio Expo Center & Fairgrounds in Columbus.

They departed at 10 a.m. in their matching blue FFA convention shirts. On the way down to Columbus, they made a stop at MVP Dairy to receive a tour. They had a nice little museum where students learned about the history of the dairy. Then students took a ride on a tour bus around their barns and saw all of their cows. At the last station, we saw their milking carousel where 80 cows ride on in a circular motion as they get milked, which takes around 10 minutes. The students received free Dannon yogurt as all of the milk MVP Dairy produces goes to Dannon.

They soon after, arrived at the Drury Inn to unpack their luggage and later enjoyed shopping time at the Polaris mall. For dinner the students were given a meal at the Cheesecake Factory, courtesy of the Paulding FFA Alumni. The group then went to Slick City which was an action park filled with slides, basketball courts, and bouncy floors.

The following morning students ate breakfast at the Drury Inn and put on their

official dress to go to convention! They found seats and watched the state FFA officer team take the stage for session one.

The Paulding FFA Chapter was awarded the charitable giving award for chapters that have given over \$500 in donations, this award was accepted by Darcy Taylor.

After this, the group was given time to explore the expo center and shop. In session two, Addy Hunt and Tori Schlatter accepted the Gold Chapter Award for chapters who have performed exceptionally well in their communities and were rated Gold on their National Chapter Application Paulding FFA was one of twenty-five chapters to receive this award in Ohio. The keynote speaker of this session was Brad Hurtig, who spoke of his difficulties without arms. He told of being able to play football with prosthetic arms and through hard work was able to "dominate the field." They then ended the day by celebrating Jeff Holtsberry as he received his State Honorary Degree award! Jeff is our bus driver and has been supporting our FFA Chapter for over 15 years.

On the third day of the trip, FFA chapter secretaries, treasurers, and reporters received Gold rated book awards for outstanding work done on their books. Myrriah Manz received a secretary

book award, Mariah Klopfenstein received a treasurer book award, and Vivienne Myers received a reporter book award.

The chapter then received state winning plaques for Aquarium and Ag Biotechnology. Congratulations to both teams. Students also got to see Carter Boyd give his retiring speech as the State FFA President. In his speech, Boyd encouraged everyone to discover their interests and who they are. State FFA degrees were also awarded to qualifying students from across Ohio. The Paulding FFA Chapter's State Degree Recipients were as follows: Avery Cooper, Kayleigh Dunham, Jayla Griffith, Mariah Klopfenstein, Mackenzie Leatherman, Kate Manz, Myrriah Manz, Gannon Parrett, Addy Pease, Estie Pease, Tori Schlatter and Riley Stork!

The 98th annual FFA state convention was an amazing way to see the fruits of our chapter's labors and give students lessons on the value of hard work.

The chapter could not have succeeded without the contributions of the community and we are so grateful for their support. We are so thankful for the Paulding FFA Alumni and their support of our chapter. The state convention was a major success and we are looking forward to attending again next year!

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

Cecil 11:30-12:00 (Fire Station)

Junction 12:30-1:00 (Catholic Church)

Haviland/Scott 1:30-2:00 (SR 114 at Haviland Park)

Latty/Briceton 2:30-3:00 (Latty Park)

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

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
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VIRGIL H. COOPER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED



Pictured above the winners of this year's Virgil H. Cooper Scholarship (l-r) Landen Danberry, Addison Hunt, Kaitlynn Breedlove, Dianne Cooper, Addison Pease, Jackson Griffith, and Trenton Manz

PAULDING COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES 2026 AEP OHIO LEAP GRANT

American Electric Power (AEP) Ohio has announced the Paulding County Economic Development office as one of 18 community economic development organizations across Ohio to receive a Local Economic Advancement Program (LEAP) grant.

In 2026, AEP Ohio is distributing more than \$461,000 through the LEAP program to help organizations across its service territory plan their local economies' futures, prepare local industrial sites for new businesses and support creative ways to introduce their communities to existing and prospective employers.

"These recipients are helping make their communities better places to live and work, and as a proud member of the communities we serve, we're honored to support the important work of

our neighbors," said Zach Miller, director of economic development for AEP Ohio.

The Paulding County award will be used in conjunction with the Residential Economic Development District (REDD) grant received by the Village of Antwerp. This award additional award will help bring the electric service into the site designated for residential development and potential commercial growth.

Tim Cosey, Director of the Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) office explained, "This award provides the ability to stack incentives and helps us provide future affordable growth in rural Ohio. We are thankful to accept this award from AEP on behalf of the Antwerp Village. We are excited for the opportunity to see how this project improves the Paulding County."

Seventeen local economic development organizations received a LEAP grant this year:

- Cambridge Guernsey

County Community Improvement Corporation

- City of Canton
- Holmes County Economic Development Council
- Jackson County Economic Development Partnership
- Jefferson County Port Authority
- Lancaster Port Authority
- Lawrence Economic Development Corporation
- Ohio Southeast Economic Development
- Regional Growth Partnership
- Team NEO
- Tuscarawas County Economic Development Corporation
- University of Rio Grande
- Wayne County Economic Development Council
- Defiance County Community Improvement Corporation
- Mid-Ohio Development Exchange
- Paulding County Community Improvement Corporation
- Wyandot County Collaboration

SHERWOOD LIBRARY'S FREE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM FOR KIDS RETURNS

[DEFIANCE] - From story time to lunchtime, Sherwood Branch Library is serving the community all summer long with a free lunch program designed to keep kids nourished while school is out.

Sherwood Branch's free Summer Lunch Program for kids will return this year, running from June 1-July 30. Lunches will be available Mondays through Thursdays from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the Community Room at the library, 117 N. Harrison St., Sherwood, Ney Park, and Farmer Community Church.

Lunches are available to

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ages 0-18, or 19-21 with a disability. Special activities and programs will follow lunchtime on many days beginning at 1 p.m. To see all summer events visit defiance.library.org/calendar.

Partnering with the library this year to make the Summer Lunch Program possible are St. John Lutheran (Sherwood), Sherwood VFW Post 5665, Hearts and Hands, the Fairview Elementary School kindergarten classes, Don and Ann Hange, and the Sherwood Food Pantry.

No signup or registration is needed. For more information, contact the library at 419-899-4343.

VETERANS MEMORIAL "PEACE POLE" TO BE DEDICATED

The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum will be dedicating a Peace Pole at the Memorial Park at 2122 O'Day Road in Fort Wayne on Saturday May 23rd at 11:30 A.M. This is a memorial inscribed with the universal message: "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in different languages, serving as a symbol for global harmony and a silent prayer for peace. This 8 ft tall pole symboling the hope for peace worldwide is represented by 8 different languages including: English, German, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Japanese, Arabic and French. All with the same message.

Created by Japanese activist Masahisa Goi after World War II, these poles act as reminders to foster peace in thought, word and deed. In a time when our hopes are high for peace throughout the world, this Peace Pole is a welcome addition to the Veterans Memorial Park and a sign of true hope. The project was initiated by Board Member Greg Banicki who arranged for the procurement and funding by Jim Lakewind; A 1969 Veteran of the 4th Infantry during his tour in Vietnam.

The Memorial Shrine and Museum is open Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Grounds are open 24/7 For group tours contact the Shrine office at 260-267-5022.

SAVING FOR RETIREMENT: ARE YOU GUESSING OR PLANNING?

Let's say you dream of spending your retirement mornings on a warm beach, coffee in hand, waves rolling in. To get there, you had a simple plan: save \$1 million and buy the beach house you always wanted.

But when retirement arrives, reality hits. After accounting for keeping your current home, everyday expenses and health care, \$1 million doesn't stretch as far as you thought, and the beach house remains a dream. The problem wasn't your discipline - it was that your number was never really your number. It was arbitrary, not anchored to what your ideal retirement would actually cost.

How can you make sure your retirement number is right for you?

A solid savings goal starts with a clear picture of the retirement you want. Think through where you plan to live, whether you'll keep your current home or downsize, how much you plan to travel, if you'll help children and grandchildren financially and what health care might cost you later in life. Build a realistic monthly budget, then multiply by 12 months to find your annual need. Adjust this amount for inflation until the first year of retirement.

Then, multiply that figure by 25 to get a sense of how much may be needed to save. It's a formula based on the idea of withdrawing 4% annually from your savings, assuming you retire in your mid-60s. If you need \$60,000 a year, your target is around \$1.5 million. You may need more or less depending on your lifestyle, health, unexpected expenses, Social Security benefits and other income. No single rate or strategy will work for everyone. A financial advisor can help you determine your number and strategy.

Once you know your target, the path forward be-

comes clearer. Here are a few tips for next steps:

Start early. The sooner you begin saving, the more time compounding interest has to work in your favor. Small amounts set aside automatically each paycheck have the opportunity to grow significantly over decades.

Live below your means. Spending less than you earn is one of the most powerful wealth-building habits. When your income rises, save and invest the difference instead of upgrading your lifestyle.

Keep your debt under control. Since credit cards and other high-interest debt can slow your progress, pay off balances monthly when possible.

Invest consistently. If your employer offers a 401(k), aim to contribute at least 10%-15% of your salary, and increase your contributions after every raise. If you max out your 401(k), a traditional IRA or Roth IRA may offer additional tax-advantaged growth (eligibility and contribution limits apply).

Boost your income when you can. Develop new skills, ask for a raise or explore a side income. Every extra dollar saved moves you closer to your goal.

The difference between a retirement you love and one full of compromises often comes down to the planning you do today. Know your real number, build a solid plan and get the right help along the way.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Bryan R Post
Financial Advisor
117 E High Street
Hicksville, OH 43526
419-542-6260

> edwardjones.com

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(Continued from Page 1)

nis, Students Sharing Hearts, Student Council, 4-H Dog Club, Academic Spell Bowl, Academic Super Bowl, Math and Science, National Honor Society, Prom Committee, and Construction. Her accomplishments and honors include the Purdue University Trustee Scholarship, Scholastic Gold Key for Writing, Rising Star of Indiana recognition, the AP Scholar Award, School Recognition Award, Principal's Honor Roll, and a first-place Robotics Award at the Purdue Seminar for Top Engineering Prospects.

Outside of school, Kendall enjoys crafting, drawing, listening to music and audiobooks, watching sports, and writing.

Leo High School Class of 2026 recognizes Salutatorian **Leah Shappell**, who graduated with a 4.406 GPA. Leah is the daughter of Ben and Carrie Shappell and plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a degree in Nursing. Leah said she has always had a passion for helping people and hopes to continue doing so through her future career path in nursing.

Throughout high school, Leah participated in Basketball, Softball, Volleyball, Students Sharing Hearts, National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and served as Yearbook Editor. Her accomplishments and honors include receiving academic and athletic scholar-



Leah Shappell

ships from Ferris State University, earning Principal's Honor Roll recognition, being named a Rising Star of Indiana recipient, earning Academic All-State honors in volleyball, basketball, and softball, and receiving the Beyond the Game Leadership Award.

Outside of school, Leah enjoys lifting, running, painting, dancing, and watching sports.

New Haven High School:

New Haven High School Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Elia Doust**, who graduated with a 4.324 GPA. Elia is the daughter of Justin and Julie Doust and plans to attend University of South Florida to pursue a degree in Integrated Public Relations and Advertising. Elia said she chose the field because she hopes to use her degree to represent people and firms in a favorable light.

Throughout high school, Elia participated as Football Manager, played Tennis, and served on Student Council.

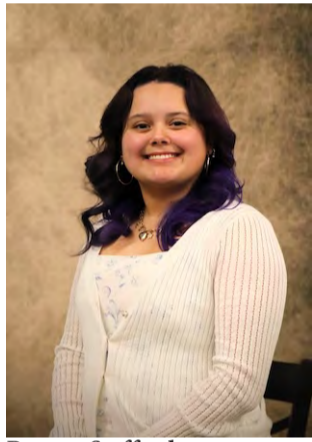


Elia Doust

Her accomplishments and recognitions include membership in National Honor Society, receiving the Tennis Sportsmanship Award, earning the USF Green and Gold Scholars Waiver Award, and earning a four-time varsity letter for managing football.

Outside of school, Elia enjoys attending concerts and sporting events, along with reading and traveling.

New Haven High School Class of 2026 recognizes Salutatorian **Brenna Stafford**, who graduated with a 4.322 GPA. Brenna is the daughter of Brent and Amy Stafford and



Brenna Stafford

plans to attend Trine University to pursue a degree in Actuarial Science. Brenna said she has always enjoyed math and problem-solving, making the field a natural fit for her skills and interests.

Throughout high school, Brenna participated in theater, golf, and served as the boys golf manager. Her accomplishments and recognitions include being named a Rising Star of Indiana recipient, earning recognition through the National Indigenous Recognition Program and College Board National Recognition program, receiving Academic Honors and the Bulldog Pride Award, and earning the Dean's Actuarial Scholarship.

Outside of school, Brenna enjoys thrifting, spending time with family, and hanging out with friends.

Woodlan High School:

Woodlan High School Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Mariah Thullner**, who graduated with a 4.354 GPA. Mariah is the daughter of Vicki Campbell and Otto



Mariah Thullner

Thullner and plans to attend Wheaton College to study Archaeology and History. Mariah said she chose the field because history is the only subject that never feels like a chore to her, and she takes complete delight in continuing to learn more about it.

Throughout high school, Mariah participated in Basketball, volunteered in childcare at church, served on the Youth Worship Team, worked as Soccer Manager, and was a member of National Honor Society. Her accomplishments and honors include earning AP Scholar with Distinction recognition, being named an Indiana Rising Star nominee, and receiving the College Board First Generation National Recognition Award.

Outside of school, Mariah enjoys playing guitar, being involved in church activities, working with children, and staying physically active.

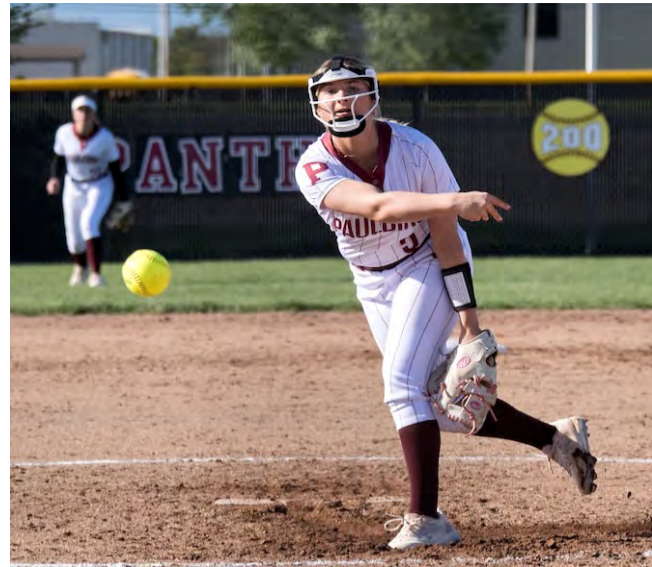
Woodlan High School Class of 2026 recognizes Salutatorian **Alexzandra Beason**, who graduated with a 4.325 GPA. Alexzandra is the niece of Renell Miller and plans to



Alexzandra Beason

attend Indiana University to study Biochemistry. She said she chose the field because she

PAULDING BLANKS DELTA TO CAPTURE SECTIONAL TITLE



A strong pitching performance by Senior Tia Mendez pushed the Panthers to an easy victory in this round of sectional play. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

PAULDING — The Paulding Panthers punched their ticket to the district tournament on Tuesday, May 13 with a dominant 12-0 victory over Delta in the OHSAA Division V Softball Sectional Finals at Paulding.

Paulding exploded offensively from the opening inning and never looked back, scoring three runs in the first and adding seven more in the second inning to seize complete control. The Panthers added two more runs in the third before closing out the run-rule victory after five innings.

The Panthers finished with 17 hits while holding Delta to just four hits and no runs.

Tia Mendez led the Paulding offense with a huge performance at the plate, going 3-for-4 with two doubles, a triple, two RBIs and two runs scored. Delaney Johanns and Cadence Schwab each collected three hits, while Luci Martinez and Madison Clark added two hits apiece.

Luci Martinez scored three

runs for the Panthers, while Madison Clark and Civil Pumphrey each crossed the plate twice. Gracie Leal added two hits and an RBI, and M. Klopfenstein chipped in a hit and RBI.

Paulding's aggressive offense produced five doubles and a triple in the contest.

Baylor Kilgore earned the win in the circle for the Panthers. Kilgore pitched four innings, allowing 17 hits and 12 runs — eight earned — while striking out six and walking two.

Delta managed four hits in the game, with Sophia Ford, Mya Martinez and Graycn Pelton accounting for the Panthers' offense. Pelton also doubled for Delta.

Defensively, Paulding played a clean game without committing an error.

With the sectional championship victory, Paulding advances to the OHSAA Division V District Semifinals and will face Swanton on May 19 at Napoleon.

finds biochemistry interesting and believes it is important for her future goals.

Throughout high school, Alexzandra participated in Service Club, National Honor Society, and internships at Parkview Health and a nursing home. Her accomplishments and honors include being named a Rising Star of Indiana recipient, earning the Lilly Endowment Scholarship, Rural Small Town Award, Academic Honors recognition, AP Scholar Award, and the DAR Good Citizen Award.

Outside of school, Alexzandra enjoys traveling,

volunteering, and spending time with family and friends.

East Allen University:

East Allen University Class of 2026 recognizes Valedictorian **Jadon Miesle**, who graduated with a 4.43 GPA. Jadon is the son of Peter and Amber Miesle and plans to pursue a



Jadon Miesle

degree in Physics while remaining undecided on which university he will attend. Jadon said he chose physics because it has a heavy focus on math, a subject he both enjoys and feels naturally skilled in.

Throughout high school, Jadon participated in National Honor Society, Student Council, and Math Club. His accomplishments and recognitions include being named a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist and earning Rising Stars of Indiana recognition.

Outside of school, Jadon enjoys playing video games, tinkering with computers, and

Going for Gold



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PAULDING COUNTY

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EMS

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EMS WEEK

May 17-23, 2026

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all the volunteer men and women who currently serve, and those who have served the communities in Paulding County.

We appreciate all you do!

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL
pauldingcountyhospital.com
419-399-4080

programming.
East Allen University Class of 2026 recognizes Salutatorian **Jiles Mahony**, who graduated with a 4.37 GPA. Jiles is the son of Kami Mahony and Orion Mahony and plans to



Jiles Mahony

attend Purdue University to pursue a degree in Engineering. Jiles said he chose the field because of his passion for creating and innovating.

Throughout high school, Jiles participated in the competitive robotics team, National Honor Society, Student Council, a Parkview Health technology internship, SAT math tutoring, and an industrial engineering internship. His accomplishments and

recognitions include earning Dean's List honors, Purdue's Presidential Scholarship, the Purdue National Recognition Scholarship, being named a top student in several classes, and making the Honor Roll each year.

Outside of school, Jiles enjoys traveling, fitness challenges, reading, and spending time with friends.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION DATES & TIMES

East Allen University - May 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at PFW Auer Performance Hall

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

Heritage High School - May 30, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. at PFW Auer Performance Hall

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

New Haven High School - May 31, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum

more runs to extend the advantage to 7-3.

Wayne Trace attempted a comeback in the top of the seventh, plating two runs, but Hicksville held on for the sectional championship victory.

With the win, Hicksville improved to 14-6 on the season and advanced to face Bryan in district play on

Thursday, May 14. Bryan entered the matchup undefeated at 17-0 after edging Ayersville 1-0 in another sectional contest.

Wayne Trace closed its season (11-12, 3-4 GMC) after a strong tournament run and competitive effort against the Aces.

HWC FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



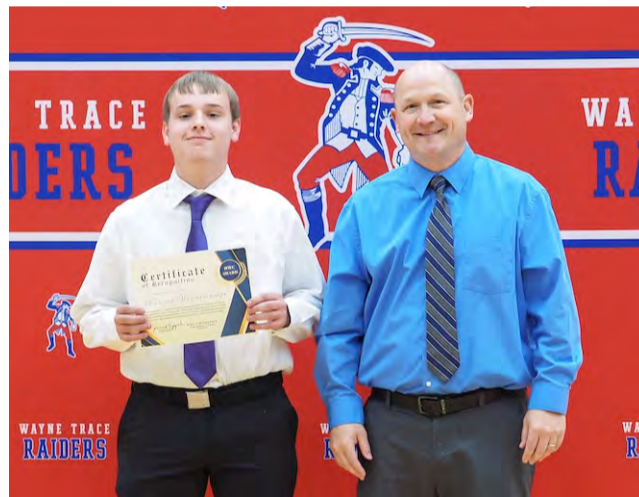
Shown in the picture are Jessica Keppeler (HWC Foundation) along with Edgerton seniors Ava Swank, Alivia Farnham and Joel Stiver.

The Health & Wellness Community Foundation of Hicksville is proud to provide scholarships to area youth as they desire to pursue higher education following high school.

The HWC Foundation re-

cently presented three scholarships to students at Edgerton High School. Recipients are selected based on achievements in academics, participation in activities and demonstrating passion for future goals.

WANNEMACHER EARNS HEALTH & WELLNESS SCHOLARSHIP



The Health & Wellness Community Foundation of Hicksville is proud to provide scholarships to area youth as they desire to pursue higher education following high school.

Konnor Wannemacher, a senior at Wayne Trace High School, was recently recognized by the HWC Foundation as a 2026 scholarship winner in his pursuit of a de-

gree in business from Northwest State Community College.

Recipients are selected based on achievements in academics, participation in activities and demonstrating passion for future goals.

Shown in the photo above are Konnor Wannemacher (left) and Wayne Trace Principal Mike Myers.

WOODLAN DEFEATS SOUTH ADAMS IN REGULAR SEASON SOFTBALL MATCHUP



Woodlan Junior Addison Klotz makes some action as he send the ball to center field, picks up a double, pushing another player to third and Ellice Krauter to score for an RBI! More pictures at engagingexposures.com

WOODBURN, Ind. — The Woodlan Lady Warriors used an explosive start and consistent offense to defeat the South Adams Starfires 9-2 in regular season softball action on May 12 at Woodlan.

The Lady Warriors pounded out 13 hits in the contest while limiting South Adams to six hits.

Addison Klotz led the Woodlan offense with a perfect 4-for-4 performance at the plate, scoring three runs and driving in two. V. Crozier added two hits, including a double, and collected three RBIs. S. Gillingham finished with two hits, including a triple, while driving in two runs.

Kaycie Reed contributed

two hits and an RBI for the Lady Warriors, while Lucy McHenry and Ellice Krauter each doubled. Krauter also scored twice in the victory.

Sophia Martin earned the complete-game win in the circle for Woodlan. Martin allowed two runs — one earned — on six hits across seven innings while striking out two and walking one.

Shelby Weigel pitched all six innings for South Adams, allowing 13 hits and nine runs, eight earned, while striking out five and walking two.

Woodlan played a clean defensive game without committing an error, while South Adams finished with two errors.

LADY ACES HOLDS OFF RAIDERS IN SECTIONAL FINAL



Sophomore Addyson LaBounty slides safely into home after tagging up at third base after the catch by Hicksville's Braelyn Adams. More pictures at engagingexposures.com

HICKSVILLE — Wayne Trace battled to the final inning, but Hicksville pulled away late to defeat the Raiders 7-5 in the OHSAA softball sectional final on Tuesday, May 12 at Hicksville.

The Raiders and Aces were locked in a tight contest through the middle innings. After a scoreless first inning,

Wayne Trace grabbed a 2-1 lead in the second before adding another run in the third to move ahead 3-1.

Hicksville answered in the fourth inning with two runs to tie the game at 3-3, then added another run in the fifth to take its first lead of the night. The Aces broke the game open in the sixth inning with three

UNITED EDGE REAL ESTATE AND AUCTION CO., LLC SCAN ME!

LOST LEASE LIQUIDATION AUCTION
Antique Cars - Winnebago Class A Motorhome - Shop & Contractor Supplies - Machinist Tools - Furniture

LOTS START CLOSING TUESDAY, MAY 26 @ 6:00 PM ONLINE ONLY

The owner has lost the lease on their storage building & needs to downsize their belongings. Check out this variety of antique cars, tools, shop supplies, machinist tools, contractor supplies, furniture & even a Winnebago Class A motorhome. Lathes, saws, metal breaks, engine lifts, welders & more!

Inspection available by appointment.
Contact Auction Manager, Bart Westfall @ 419-553-0323

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Bart Westfall, (419) 553-0323 • #AU10500122 • 15% Buyer's Premium (\$500 Cap/Lot)

COUGARS HOLD OFF PANTHERS IN HIGH-SCORING SOFTBALL BATTLE

The Van Wert Cougars collected 14 hits and held off a late rally to defeat the Paulding Panthers 9-7 on May 4 at Paulding.

The Cougars jumped out quickly with four runs in the first inning and continued to add to the lead throughout the contest, while the Panthers answered several times to keep the game close.

Paulding finished with 14 hits of its own, but Van Wert pitcher Emma West worked through the Panthers lineup to earn the complete-game victory. West allowed seven runs, three earned, while striking out five and walking one.

Tia Mendez took the loss for the Panthers after pitching all seven innings. Mendez struck out seven while allowing nine runs, eight earned, on 14 hits.

Mariah Klopfenstein led Paulding offensively with a single, home run, run scored and three RBIs. Gracie Leal added a double, run and two RBIs, while Madison Clark collected two singles, scored once and drove in a run.

Civil Pumphrey and Luci Martinez each had two singles, while Cadence Schwab also added two singles. Taylor Hogans singled and scored twice, Samantha Leal singled and scored, and Mendez tripled.

Van Wert was powered by Isabella Wise, who blasted two home runs, scored three times and drove in three runs. Layla Sudduth added four singles, a run and two RBIs, while Haley Dunlap doubled, scored and drove in three runs.

Emma Haynes and Lauren Gearhart each had two singles and scored a run for the Cougars. Emma West and Meah Johnson added singles, while Addison Roehm also scored.

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Antwerp, OH 45813

Payne, Ohio
419-263-2705
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Payne, OH 45880

Harlan, Indiana
260-657-1000
10726 Thimlar Rd
Harlan, IN 46743

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KEETERLE TRUST ONLINE AUCTION
Gas E-Z-GO Golf Cart - Electric E-Z-GO Golf Cart - 52" Simplicity Riding Lawn Mower

LOTS START CLOSING MONDAY, JUNE 1ST AT 7PM ET ONLINE ONLY AUCTION

Location: Bryan, OH

- E-Z-Go gas & electric golf carts
- Simplicity riding lawnmowers
- Century welder
- Tools & Craftsman Toolboxes
- Tupperware
- Glassware
- Cookbooks
- Furniture
- Zippo Lighters
- Appliances
- Pots & pans
- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Crocks
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- Home Décor
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- Magazines
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Darren Bok, CAI, CAS, #201800074, #AU10500122 • 15% Buyer's Premium

THE LEFT TURN



Fremont Speedway Podium Aaron Reutzel Kalib Henry Cole Macedo Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

Tuesday, May 12th, Fremont, OH, Aaron Reutzel, a former 4 time Series Champion with the All Star Circuit of Champions won the NAPA Auto Parts All Star Circuit of Champions feature race, presented by Valvoline. It's not easy to win at Fremont Speedway and when you do, it's very sweet. \$20,000.00 is a nice payday at the "Track Action Built".

Forty cars showed up at Fremont for the All Star Circuit of Champions Race, for the Outlaw 410 Winded Sprints. A good car count for a Tuesday night race. Oklahoma driver Hank Davis, set quick time with a 11.998 lap. It was his first time at Fremont Speedway, and he was only two tenths off the track record.

Qualifying heat races were won by Aaron Reutzel, Cale Thomas, Kalib Henry and TJ Michael. Tyler Courtney struggled in his heat getting a 7th place finish, but he came back and won the B Main to advance into the feature. Cap Henry, Cole Macedo and Zane

DeVault also had to transfer out of the B Main. As a bonus, Reutzel won the dash and put him on the pole for the start of the feature.

Just as the cars were being pushed out to start the \$20,000.00 to win feature, the clouds moved in causing a few sprinkles. The 26 car starting field was given the green flag and Reutzel took the early lead and fended off defending the series defending champion Kalib Henry, who finished second. Wrecks and cautions kept the track clear for the leaders. Cole Macedo started 23rd and quietly knocked off cars one by one to work his way through traffic and advanced 20 positions to finish third. He just ran out of time.

Next up, the NAPA Auto Parts All Star Circuit of Champions presented by Valvoline heads east to visit Michaels Mercer Raceway Park on Saturday, May 23rd, and Wayne County Speedway on Sunday, May 24th. Both races are \$7,500-to-win. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/



Jesse Miller with his hybrid crappie catch.

NEW OHIO STATE RECORD HYBRID CRAPPIE CERTIFIED

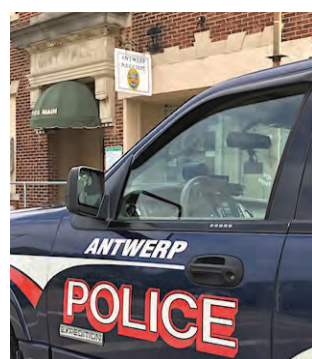
A new Ohio state record category for hybrid crappie (White Crappie X Black Crappie) has been approved by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio (OWO) with consultation from the Ohio Division of Wildlife. Biologists with the wildlife agency noted that hybrid crappies are not unusual in waters having populations of both species. Fisheries biologists Kipp Brown and Mike Porto from Wildlife District 5 confirmed the identification of a hybrid crappie submitted

to OWO as a potential state record.

The new state record hybrid crappie, weighing 4.27 pounds, and measuring 18.3 inches long with a girth of 16 inches, was caught by Jesse Miller of Middletown, Ohio. Mr. Miller caught his hybrid crappie April 1, 2026 while fishing near the Middletown Dam on the Great Miami River, using a spinning rod spooled with six pound test monofilament line and offering a minnow below a bobber. This fish marks the first entry into Ohio's new state record fish category.

Ohio's record fish are determined on the basis of weight only and are certified by the Outdoor Writers of Ohio State Record Fish Committee with assistance from fisheries biologists with the Ohio Division of Wildlife.

For more information on Ohio's state record fish program contact Fred Snyder, Chairman, OWO State Record Fish Committee, 754 Co. Rd. 126, Fremont, OH 43420, phone (419) 332-0777, email fnsnyder@gmail.com or visit www.outdoorwritersofohio.org



ANTWERP POLICE REPORT

On May 1 a resident of North Garden Apartments called the Antwerp Police Department and wanted to know if her ex-boyfriend had a valid driver's license. When the officer tried speaking with her in reference to the situation she got angry and hung up the phone.

On May 2 juveniles were reported throwing rocks through windows of the old business located at 307 W. River St. The officer responded, took photographs of the damage, later located the juveniles responsible and prepared a report.

On May 2 a disabled vehicle was reported in front of the dentist office along Main St. The vehicle was later towed.

On May 3 a resident of Daggett St. reported believing that a storage room attached to the apartment building had possibly been broken into. The officer responded and investigated the situation but did not observe any signs of a break-in.

On May 4 the Antwerp Police Department assisted EMS.

On May 5 a resident reported being scammed out of \$2,500. The scam involved receiving a check in the mail, cashing the check, then purchasing money orders and mailing them to different locations.

On May 5 several properties received notices for tall grass and/or junk.

On May 6 a vehicle was stopped for an unsecured load. The driver was cited for an unsecured load and driving under suspension.

On May 7 the Antwerp Police Department assisted EMS at Dollar General.

On May 8 a resident of Stone St. reported that a neighbor's dog was constantly barking. The owner of the dog was notified.

On May 8 a resident of Daggett St. reported that juveniles were knocking on her door and running away when she answered. The juveniles were located and asked to stop.

On May 10 a resident of Maple Dr. reported finding a golden retriever in their yard. An officer responded, retrieved the dog, located the owner and returned the dog.

On May 11 a resident requested a vehicle unlock. The vehicle was unlocked.

On May 11 a resident of Woodlan Dr. reported a door-to-door salesman. An officer responded, located the person and informed them that a permit was required.

On May 12 the Antwerp Police Department received an alarm call at a business on S. Erie St. An officer responded, found the building secure and notified the owner.

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

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (10) persons on Thursday, May 14, 2026

Kathy Jean Cooper (03/23/1971), Oakwood, Aggravated Possession of Drugs, F5

Cameron J. Williams (12/10/1995), Paulding, Failure to Comply with an Order or Signal of a Police Officer, F3

Raymond Allan Levye (08/18/1980), Detroit, two counts of Receiving Stolen Property, both F4

Damian Wood (03/22/2004), Paulding, Rape, F1

Nicholas Paul Martinez (03/13/1978), Payne, Importuning, F5

Shawna M. Landry (08/22/1967), Paulding, Possession of Cocaine, F5

Lester E. Sulfridge Jr. (02/19/1959), Paulding, Aggravated Possession of Drugs, F5

Terrance Jamz Landwehr (12/20/1998), Van Wert, Aggravated Possession of Drugs, F5

Leslie Ann Porter (07/14/1984), Scott, Burglary, F3; Theft, F5; Receiving Stolen Property, F5

Mackquayn Dantea English (10/26/1978), Eastpointe, Failure to Comply with an Order or Signal of a Police Officer, F4; Operating a Vehicle Under the Influence of Alcohol, a Drug of Abuse or a Combination of Them (OVI), M1

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Aaron D. Thrash of Defiance, Ohio, was found guilty by the court of disorderly conduct following a bench trial. He was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$153.50 in court costs. Special conditions include maintaining general good behavior.

Rodney L. Osburn Jr. of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of domestic violence. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Osburn was sentenced to 30 days in jail, with 29 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs, no unlawful contact with victims, submission to an evaluation and completion of treatment compliance by June 26, 2026. A related domestic violence charge was dismissed per the state. He had a charge of disorderly conduct dismissed per the state, with court costs of \$111 assessed to the defendant.

Venancio Cardenas of Antwerp, Ohio, had an operating a vehicle under the influence charge dismissed without prejudice, with court costs waived. In related cases, Cardenas 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. Cardenas was also convicted of improper parking and was fined \$50.

Phoenix Doyle of Sandusky, Ohio, had a charge of driving under suspension, non-financial responsibility, dismissed.

Leslie A. Porter of Scott, Ohio, had a charge of receiv-

ing stolen property dismissed without prejudice, with court costs waived.

Jack P. Dohoney of Van Wert, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Joshua V. Garner of Payne, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. He was fined \$250, with \$50 suspended, and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Special conditions include showing proof of insurance by May 14, 2026.

Dustin M. Riley of Monroeville, Indiana, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Kevin L. Longstreth of Middle Point, 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.

Kucera M. Thomas of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving while texting. Thomas was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Rod E. Elkins Jr. of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a registration violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

Abbie L. Holton of Cloverdale, Ohio, had a charge of obstructing dismissed per the state with prejudice, with court costs of \$253 assessed to the defendant.

Nathan P. Kline of Van Wert, Ohio, had a charge of domestic violence dismissed per the state with prejudice, with court costs waived.

Muriel E. Chong of Kokomo, Indiana, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of speeding. She was

fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. In a related case, Chong was also convicted of a seat belt violation while driving and was fined \$30.

Mackquayn D. English of Eastpointe, Michigan, had a charge of reckless operation dismissed at the defendant's costs.

Trevaill Whitt of Fort Wayne, Indiana, was convicted of possession of marijuana. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

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ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

The State Bank & Trust Company, Plaintiff,

vs.

Justice M. J. Clark, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 084

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

The Left Turn
Your Source For Tri-State Racing

Ohio Sport Blitz Facebook Live with Ron Burt!

www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

PAULDING ELEMENTARY MINDSET MARVELS



April Mindset Marvels for Paulding Elementary all showed an "Attitude of Gratitude"! They are: Bottom row (l-r): Grayson Thompson, Elizabeth Tavares Vasquez, Everly Rittenhouse, Eliana Johnson, Milo Reinhart, and Ensley Salas. Middle row (l-r): Ayrallynn Dunakin, Holland Witkouski, Julia Gochenour, Lydia Reinhart, and Garrett McClain. Top row (l-r): Noah Miller, Damian Pena, Gwendalyn Laboe, Carrol Schuchart, Jeyssi Veliz Jimenez. Not pictured: Chloe Gonzales and Payton Schroeder.

valid operator's license. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs. Cardenas was also convicted of improper parking and was fined \$50.

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2026 GMC ALL-CONFERENCE BASEBALL SELECTIONS

The Green Meadows Conference is proud to announce the All-Conference Baseball Selections for 2026.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Anthony Singer, 10th Grade, Fairview High School

FIRST TEAM
Anthony Singer (10), Fairview; Owen Lloyd (11) Ayersville; Colten Hunt (12) Paulding; Allan Burchfield (12) Tinora; Brody Rosswurm (11) Wayne Trace; Logan Stein (11) Tinora; Shady Fritch (10) Fairview; Elijah Arend (12) Fairview; Maddox Baker (12) Edgerton; Kellen Sanchez (11) Edgerton

SECOND TEAM
Parker Hancock (12) Tinora; Noah Weaver (12) Edgerton; Owen Reynolds (10) Tinora; Myles Baker (9) Edgerton; Eli Lawrence (12) Hicksville; Tanner Laukhuf

The West Bend News Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

(12) Wayne Trace; Grady Barton (12) Paulding; Jack Schoenauer (12) Wayne Trace; Jackson Stambaugh (11) Ayersville; Zachary Barton (10) Paulding

HONORABLE MENTION:

Riley Smith (11) Antwerp; Dane Ewers (10) Ayersville; Jackson Flower (12) Edgerton; Jayden Beverly (10) Hicksville; Stroker Etter (11) Paulding; Caden Sinn (12) Wayne Trace; Luke Parrett (11) Antwerp; Brock Hauenstein (10) Ayersville; Jonah Shininger (11) Fairview; Easton Adams (10) Hicksville; Grady Arend (11) Paulding; Carter Clemens (12) Wayne Trace; Gage Clevinger (11) Antwerp; Alex Sigler (10) Ayersville; Calvin Kepler (9) Fairview; Jett Keesbury (10) Hicksville; Avery Moser (12) Tinora; Jonathan Sterrett (11) Wayne Trace

Call or Email your classified ad today!
419-258-2000
info@westbendnews.net

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Notice is hereby given that pursuant O.R.C. Section 4928.20 (C) the Village of Grover Hill will hold two separate public hearings on the Villages' Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance on June 8, 2026 at 5:00pm and 5:30pm in the Village Grover Hill's Council Chambers.

The Village of Grover Hill's Electric Power Aggregation Plan of Operation and Governance describes the policies and procedures by which Grover Hill will carry out its municipal electric aggregation program, including those policies and procedures, which relate to rates and customer service.

If you have any questions, you may call the Village at 419-203-5323.

Mayor DeWayne Hinchcliff,
Village of Grover Hill

GROVER HILL PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: Lienholders and/or owners of the properties located at 201 N Maple St, 307 E Wayne St., 105 Wayne St, and N. Main St Property located on the NE corner of Main and Wayne St. in the Village of Grover Hill, State of Ohio. This is to inform you that the above mentioned properties appear to be in violation with Ordinances 95.06 and 93.41, Ordinances that regulate for junk motor vehicles, litter, and noxious weeds Village of Grover Hill, State of Ohio. You are hereby directed to remove the violations of said properties, within fifteen (15) days of the last publication of this notice. Failure to comply will result in criminal prosecution. Ordinance 93.43 gives the legislative authority to authorize necessary cleanup and removal at the owners expense.

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.

Sarah Jo Harpel
Clerk

PAULDING FFA EXCELS AT AREA 1 ENVIROTHON-QUALIFYING FOR THE STATE CONTEST



By: Makenna Manz, Paulding FFA Reporter

The Paulding FFA Chapter recently competed in the Envirothon at the Williams County Conservation Club on Wednesday April 22th, 2026.

Envirothon is a competition where different schools from Area 1 take multiple tests and practicums involving the environment. The tests these students took as a team were as follows: Wildlife, Forestry, Soils, and Aquatics and the current issue being Point and Non-Point Source Pollution.

These students went to a practice day with other schools at Defiance SWCD to prepare and learn more about these topic areas before competing.

The Paulding FFA Chapter took two teams to compete, consisting of a senior team and a sophomore team. Senior team members were Aleah Matty, Delaney Dachenhaus,

Addy Hunt and Jacob Harris and placed an Amazing 5th out of 32 teams.

The Sophomore team members were Addison Arend, Delaney Johanns, Wesley Grindstaff, Ava Leatherman and Kinzley Colard This team placed 21st. A special thanks to Paulding SWCD for sponsoring the teams!

The state contest is June 1-3 in Steubenville Ohio and we are very excited to have a team compete in this once in a lifetime experience.

The team competing at the state contest will be Aleah Matty, Delaney Dachenhaus, Jacob Harris, Delaney Johanns and Kat Burtch. We want to extend a huge thank you to Paulding SWCD for their support and guidance as we get ready to attend this state event. The team members are very excited to compete to represent Paulding at the State level!

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://paulding.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.pauldingohsheriff.com

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

2026 WBL SCHOLASTIC BOWL TOURNAMENT RESULTS



All-tournament: From left: Lacey Carpenter, Mischa Snow, George English, Railee Ronshausen, Presley Wilson, Noah Brinkman, Ezra George, Jeremy Bary and Graham Shively.



Varsity-champions: From left: Chris Brinkman, George English, Zack Wieland, Matthew Walter and Katherine McDonald.



Varsity-runnerup: From left: Jonah Briggs, Ezra George, Abigail Zabonik, Angie Karapondo, Georgianna Damschroder.



JV-champions: From left: Yanni Southibounnorath, Tommy Hedges, Smith Collins, Jake Thompson, Jonny George, Jackson Wenning and Duleeka Kularatne.



JV-runnerup: From left: Liam Stewart, Leon Melendrez, Austin Muether and Katherine Goldsberry.

Defiance and Shawnee took home top honors in the Western Buckeye League Scholastic Bowl Tournament held Friday, May 8, 2026, at The Ohio State University at Lima. This is the third year in a row that Defiance's varsity team has won the championship title and the fifth of the last seven.

The winning varsity team from Defiance included George English, Chris Brinkman, Zack Wieland, Matthew Walter and Katherine McDonald. The team finished with a perfect 8-0 record, beating the reserve

champion team from Shawnee by one point in head-to-head competition. The runner-up varsity team from Shawnee included Jonah Briggs, Georgianna Damschroder, Ezra George, Angie Karapondo and Abigail Zabonik. Shawnee varsity finished with a 6-2 record.

The winning JV team from Shawnee included Smith Collins, Jonny George, Tommy Hedges, Duleeka Kularatne, Yanni Southibounnorath, Jake Thompson and Jackson Wenning. They finished with a 7-1 record. The runner-up JV team from

Celina finished with a 6-2 record and included Katherine Goldsberry, Leon Melendrez, Austin Muether and Liam Stewart.

The Defiance coach is James Kerr and the Shawnee coach is John Young.

The WBL Scholastic Bowl All Tournament Team was chosen by the coaches and made up of one member from each school. The 2026 All Tournament Team members are Lacey Carpenter from Bath, Mischa Snow from Celina, George English from Defiance, Railee Ronshausen from Elida, Presley Wilson from Kenton, Noah Brinkman from Ottawa-Glandorf, Jeremy Bary from St. Marys, Ezra George from Shawnee and Graham Shively from Wapakoneta. English, Brinkman and Shively have earned all-tournament honors in 2024, 2025 and 2026.

High school teams from around western Ohio went head-to-head in the round-robin scholastic bowl tournament. Varsity and junior varsity teams from Bath (Daniel Grime and Lorenzo Salinas), Celina (Chris Wood), Defiance (James Kerr and Jessica Tervino), Elida (Jessica Mason and Emma Waldschmidt), Kenton (Todd Daquino), Ottawa-Glandorf (Joe Jahnz), Shawnee (John Young), St. Marys (Chad Doll), and Wapakoneta (Adam Friemering) competed. Van Wert did not compete. Coaches' names are in parentheses.

The competition is hosted and sponsored by The Ohio State University at Lima.

LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

Aeration and Rolling

Soil density and general lawn appearance can be improved by aerating and rolling your lawn. Aeration consists of perforating the soil (and any thatch above it) with small holes that open up the soil, thatch and grass. This allows water, air, and fertilizer to get closer to the roots of the grass, which enables the roots to grow deeper, producing a vigorous and vibrant lawn. In tests, grass roots have been shown to proliferate around the holes. Aerating will also improve soil compaction and reduce the likelihood of thatch becoming an issue.

To aerate a lawn, use a specialized tool to poke holes or remove cores from the soil. Run the aerator over the lawn several times to make enough holes. It is best to go over the lawn in different patterns. Make sure the soil is moist during aeration, so the aerating device can penetrate it fully. You may have to water the lawn first if there hasn't

been much rain to ensure the soil is damp.

Some signs that your lawn may need to be aerated are poor drainage, a failure for the lawn to turn green after fertilizing, and a presence of many worn areas. Intensively maintained lawns (those that receive regular fertilizer feedings) should be aerated about once a year. Lawns receiving moderate maintenance (not much fertilizer) only need aerated every two years or so. In this area, aeration can be done in the spring and fall of the year.

An aerated lawn will recover faster if fertilized and watered adequately. Apply fertilizer as soon as possible, and water whenever rainfall fails to supply about one inch of moisture per week. If the lawn is thin, over seeding with a high quality grass seed is recommended.

An alternative to lawn aeration would be to use products that encourage soil microbes. These are easy to spread with your fertilizer spreader and can be used any time of the year. They contain a special formula of soil-reviving ingredients that encourage soil microbes to break down nutrients, while also loosening hard packed soil for greater air, water, root, and nutrient penetration.

If you find your lawn to be overly lumpy, consider using a lawn roller. This is only necessary if the soil is uneven. If your lawn is very uneven, you can roll the lawn first thing in the spring or after a rainfall when the soil is still moist. The next best time to do this is in the fall. The key is to use a light roller. Heavy rolling on wet, heavy clay soil can cause harmful soil compaction. When soil becomes overly compacted, the grass roots have a much harder time growing deeper to help the grass thrive. It is not recommended to roll a new seedbed, since the new seedlings will take root easier in loose soil. Simply use a garden rake to level the soil in newly seeded areas.

Jim Gerig
Lawn Care Consultant
Grabill & Woodburn
Hardware Do It Best

HICKSVILLE HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL CELEBRATES AMERICA 250

Hicksville will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of America on June 4, 5, & 6, 2026 with a variety of events and activities in downtown Hicksville. There are games, music, and attractions for all ages.

June 4 begins with the Hicksville Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing in the morning. The Kick-Off Dinner will be held at the Rustic Handle Factory Thursday at 6:00 pm with a Barbershop theme including Barbershop Quartets, display of historical barbering equipment, and other barber activities.

The main events on Friday include many free activities like wagon rides, a Civil War Memorabilia display, The America 250 Parade downtown at 6:00 pm followed by a presentation from Olde Wrestling at 7:00 at the Huber Opera House. In addition, the Night of Lights will have their evening of celebration of loved ones, past and present, at the Field of Faith from 6-9:00 pm featuring local entertainment and inflatable games.

PCED'S SUTER SPEAKS KIWANIS CLUB OF PAULDING



This week, the Kiwanis Club welcomed Ashley Suter, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the Paulding County Health Department, who was invited by Kiwanis member Shannon Ruschel. Suter shared an overview of the many services provided by the health department to the surrounding communities.

Programs highlighted during her presentation included:

- CPR classes to educate the public on lifesaving techniques
- Car seat safety programs to ensure child passenger safety
- Vaccination services to

protect public health

- WIC program, for which the department has earned state recognition for its exceptional work

Suter also introduced a newly approved initiative, the Canteen Program, aimed at providing services and support to volunteer first responders.

Members of the community who are interested in learning more about the department's programs, volunteering, or advocacy efforts are encouraged to visit the Paulding County Health Department's Facebook page.

On Saturday, downtown will be filled from 10:00-2:00 with a Cruise In, along with a variety of entertainment on the Huber Patio. The Entertainment will include the Antwerp Community Band, the Big Top Bible Hour Children's Show, and The New Millennium Jazz Orchestra. Also, during Saturday there is the Farmer's Market, Inflation Games, Quilt Show, music at St. Paul's Church and the ONU Health Trailer for free screenings. Food options include the Firemen's Breakfast, Chicken and Pork Chop Dinners by the Boy Scouts, and plenty of food trucks.

The activities and entertainment move to the park around 3:00 with the inflatable games at the Cornerstone

Church and the Rotary Pavilion filled with a Pinewood Derby, crafts and games for kids. The Canine Demonstration by the Police and Sheriff's Offices and the Poker Run at 3:30, and other entertainment continuing into the evening. Entertainment at the park includes Five Star Dance presenting "America in Motion" at 5:00 and the American Legion Band of Fort Wayne Concert (6:30-8:30). The night will end in the park with fireworks after dusk for all.

On both Friday and Saturday, there will be inflatables for all ages to enjoy, the Quilt Show, the Book Sale at the Johnson Memorial Library, Town Wide Garage Sales, music at St. Paul's Church by lo-

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DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE GRANT ASSISTS BOTTOMS UP DIAPER BANK PROGRAM



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Stacy McCartney - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator, Jean Carr - Defiance Catholic Food Pantry Steering Committee Member and Cheryl Krontz - Diaper Bank Volunteer.

Congratulations to the Bottoms Up Diaper Bank for receiving a \$1,000 grant from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 in April. The Moose holds a Donor Advised Fund under our umbrella at the De-

fiance Area Foundation. The Diaper Bank will be using these funds for provide diapers to those in need in Defiance County through local food pantries.

DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS DEFIANCE SOCIETY OF ARTISTS ROOF REPAIRS



Pictured are Tim Whetstone - DAF DAF Grants Committee Member and Ashley Pere - Defiance Society of Artists President.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) has awarded a \$2,000 grant to the Defiance Society of Artists during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle to assist with roof repairs at the organization's Pearl Street property.

The funding will help cover repairs to both the historic house and workshop building owned by the Society, including roof and gutter work using durable 50-year shingles. The project will be completed with

support from additional donations and fundraising efforts organized by the Defiance Society of Artists.

For nearly 70 years, the Defiance Society of Artists has provided a space for local artists, community art classes, and exhibitions in Defiance County. The repairs will help preserve the property and ensure the organization can continue serving the community for years to come.

cal performers, and Self-Guided Tours available. In addition, there will be food truck vendors and over 20 sidewalk vendors. Food trucks include: El Nopal Mexican; Smother It; Lupita's Mexican; River-A Smokin' A; Sweeties Ice Cream; Big Eyed Fish; Wilson Concessions; Patterson Concessions, Snow-Biz & Dawg House; and April Concessions.

So, plan to attend this community festival to celebrate America 250 on June 4, 5, & 6 and join in the fun.

Go to Hicksville Heritage Days on Facebook for more details.

PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS OVER \$70,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO LOCAL STUDENTS

The Paulding County Area Foundation is proud to announce the awarding of more than \$70,000 in scholarships to graduating seniors and students across Paulding County for the 2026 academic year. Through the generosity of local donors, families, memorial funds, and community supporters, these scholarships continue to invest in the future of local students and strengthen opportunities for higher educa-

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

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 18-20

tion, workforce development, and community leadership.

Scholarships were awarded to students from Antwerp Local Schools, Paulding Exempted Village Schools, and Wayne Trace Local Schools.

2026 Scholarship Recipients:

Antwerp High School: 2026 JP Crain Scholarship Recipients: Leigha Doster, Raeley Franklin, Miley Jewel, Addisen Lehman, Haydyn Lengacher, Estee Lichty, Lillyanna McKay, Zaine McMichael, Harlee Moore, Landon Orozco, Hampton Rogge, Taylor Stiebling, and Raelynne Zuber.

Jessica Thornell Memorial Scholarship: Harlee Moore, Halley Hathaway, Raelynne Zuber, Marcelo Cruz, and Raeley Franklin

Anonymous Donor Scholarship Recipients: Zaine McMichael, Griffin Kosch, and Hampton Rogge

Paulding High School: 2026 JP Crain Scholarship Recipients: Landen Danberry, Jacob Harris, Addison Hunt, Molly Iler, Trenton Manz, Clayton Manz, Aleah Matty, and Hope Peters.

Dr. Orval Lee Mullen Memorial Scholarship: Trenton Manz

Dianne L. Cooper Bobcat Community Service Recipient: Trenton Manz

Anonymous Donor Scholarship Recipients: Aleah Matty, Lucy Breir, and Logan Winke

Wayne Trace School:

2026 JP Crain Scholarship Recipients: Whitney Boroff, Audrey Dougal, Olivia Franklin, Riley Manz, Estrella Martinez Sandoval, Chloe McClure, Raegan McGarvey, Caitlyn Mead, Aubree Miller, Natalie Richie, Jack Schoenauer, Myleigh Sheets, Torree Sinn, Clay Stoller, Emma Stouffer, and Caroline Winans.

Robbie Seffernick Scholarship: Aubree Miller and Eric Reinhart
Agriculture Education

Scholarship: Caitlyn Mead and Myleigh Sheets

Hey Buddy Scholarship: Emma Stouffer

Brian Myers Memorial Scholarship: Myleigh Sheets

Tammy Gibson Memorial Scholarship: Alicia Bahena

Anonymous Donor Scholarship Recipients: Olivia Franklin, Caroline Winans, and Raegan McGarvey

"The Paulding County Area Foundation is honored to support these outstanding students as they pursue their future goals," stated Lisa McClure the Executive Director of the Foundation. "These scholarships represent the generosity and lasting impact of donors who believe in investing in the next generation of leaders, workers, educators, healthcare professionals, and community members right here in Paulding County."

The Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to all scholarship donors, selection committees, school staff, and community supporters who make these opportunities possible year after year.

To learn more about the Paulding County Area Foundation or ways to support future scholarships, visit www.pauldingcountypareafoundation.com or call Lisa McClure at 419-399-8296

BIG WEEKEND IN HICKSVILLE STARTS WITH KICK-OFF BANQUET

Once again, the Hicksville Historical Society fires the starting gun for Hicksville's Heritage Days weekend. Beginning June 4th, the dinner - a fundraiser for the Historical Society - sets the stage for a weekend full of activities. This year's catered banquet features an old-time Barbershop theme. On stage will be two award-winning barbershop quartets from the Cardinal District: open class silver medalists IPA, and Retrospect, the senior class champions. Guests will enjoy their



STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROY KLOPFENSTEIN SECURES 2026 REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY WIN

State Representative Roy Klopfenstein secured victory in the 2026 Ohio Primary Election on Tuesday, May 5, earning the Republican Party nomination for Ohio's 82nd House District. Republican voters across Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and southern Defiance counties selected Klopfenstein to represent the party in the November General Election and continue serving the district in the Ohio House of Representatives.

"I am honored and humbled to once again receive the Republican Party's nomination to represent Ohio's 82nd House District," said Representative Klopfenstein. "I'm also encouraged by the strong voter turnout throughout our district during this primary election."

Klopfenstein highlighted the district's voter participation during the Primary Election, noting that Putnam County led both the District and the State of Ohio with a 34.3% turnout. Paulding County followed with 28.7%, Van Wert County with 24.9%, and Defiance County with 23.9%.

As he shifts focus to the November 2026 General Election, Representative Klopfenstein says his campaign will continue to prioritize:

- Fiscal responsibility, low taxes, and accountability in state government
- Supporting agriculture and protecting Ohio's farming heritage
- Optimizing and advancing Ohio's energy resources and infrastructure to support future needs and economic expansion
- Encouraging business growth and job creation across Northwest Ohio
- Strengthening public safety and supporting law enforcement and first responders

harmonious stylings of tunes both old and new in classic barbershop fashion.

Keeping the theme, there will be a display of the vast collection of vintage barbering equipment owned by long-time, local barber Frank Hostetler. An old-fashioned hot shave will be auctioned off and demonstrated on the winning bidder by Barber Jamie Henderson. And a quilt, fashioned in a Civil War era pattern and donated by the Piece-makers Quilters, will be raffled.

The dinner will be held at the historic Rustic Handle Factory in Hicksville with dinner provided by Grant's Catering. Valet parking will be available for anyone needing the assistance. For ticketing and other information, see the Society's website at hicksvillehistoricalsociety.com, their

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

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Representative Klopfenstein currently serves as Chairman of the Ohio House Agriculture Committee, where he has led practical, common-sense initiatives to support and advance Ohio's agriculture industry while encouraging future generations of Ohio farmers. He also serves on the House Energy, Local Government, and Transportation Committees.

"With the experience I've gained serving in the Ohio House over the past four years, I am more dedicated than ever to protecting the values that make Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Defiance counties such outstanding places to call home," Klopfenstein added. "I look forward to earning the support of voters this November so I can continue working on their behalf."

The 2026 General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. For more information about Roy Klopfenstein's re-election campaign for Ohio's 82nd House District, please visit www.RoyKlopfenstein.com.

Facebook page at Hicksville Historical Society Ohio, email to hicksvillehistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or see any Board member. Additional details about the banquet AND the festival can be found at Hicksville Heritage Days Facebook page.

Hicksville Historical Society is a non-profit, totally volunteer organization dedicated to keeping the history of Hicksville, its people, places and things alive. Proceeds from the banquet activities go toward the maintenance of the Land Office, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and the records and artifacts of the Society.

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MIDWEST AMERICA FEDERAL CREDIT UNION SUPPORTS EAST ALLEN CAREER CENTER'S NEW AVIATION MAINTENANCE PROGRAM



MidWest America Federal Credit Union officials presented a check in the amount of \$35,000 to East Allen Career Center staff and Superintendent Hisson in support of the new Aviation Maintenance Program. These dollars will help the school purchase equipment for the start-up program. "The aviation industry is growing in Fort Wayne, and the East Allen Career Center is committed to filling a pipeline of talent for this exciting industry," said Mr. Tim Wiegand, Executive Director of the Career Center.

Dave Shadburne, President/CEO of MidWest Amer-

ica Federal Credit Union said, MidWest America Federal Credit Union is excited to be the credit union sponsor partner of the East Allen Career Center and supporter of their new aviation maintenance program. This innovative new program will give students in our community another well-paying career opportunity. Providing funds for the tools and equipment for this program will impact students for years to come".

"It has been a pleasure teaming up with East Allen County Schools officials on the development of the Aviation Maintenance Technician Program. What began as a

simple idea and dream has grown into a tremendous opportunity for the children of our community.

Northeast Indiana continues to experience significant economic growth, and we must stay ahead of the increasing demand for skilled labor. This program represents one of the many pathways our region's educators are creating to provide the business community with a qualified and capable workforce, said Tim Edmonds, Vice President of Aviation, Surack Enterprises.

The aviation program will start in the 2026-27 school year.

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE GRANT SUPPORTS NOCAC SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM



Pictured (l-r) are Crystal Genter - NOCAC Health and Safety Assistant and Audrey Lynn Roth - Defiance Moose Lodge Chaplain.

Congratulations to Northwestern Ohio Comm Action Commission (NOCAC) for receiving a \$1,000 grant in April from the Defiance Moose Lodge #2094. The

Moose holds a Donor Advised Fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant will be used for NOCAC's summer food program.

DEFIANCE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY TO EXPLORE FUTURE OF FAMILY HISTORY WITH AI

The Defiance County Genealogical Society is pleased

to announce an upcoming program, "Using AI for Genealogy." The event will take place on Monday, May 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM at St. John's United Church of Christ, 950 Webster St. in Defiance.

spawning research logs, and uncovering connections in historical records that might otherwise be missed. The landscape of family history research is changing rapidly. Let us help guide genealogists through these new digital frontiers, showing both the possibilities and the best practices for integrating AI into our genealogy research.

This meeting is open to the public, and anyone with an interest in family history—from beginners to professional researchers—is encouraged to attend.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TO HOLD DEDICATION & OPEN HOUSE

Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert will host a dedication and open house on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at a newly completed home located at 917 George Street in Van Wert. The event is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. and community members are invited to attend the celebration.

The open house will recognize the completion of the project and provide an opportunity for supporters, volunteers, and residents to tour the home and celebrate with the family involved.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Laurie Lucas at 419-789-8902.

GROVER HILL ALUMNI BANQUET SET

The Grover Hill Alumni Banquet will meet at the Grover Hill Community Club on May 23 at 1:00 p.m.

Drinks and light snacks will be provided.

As technology continues to reshape how we uncover the past, artificial intelligence has emerged as a powerful tool for researchers. This presentation will delve into how AI can assist in transcribing difficult handwriting, translating from foreign languages, organizing

MCMICHAEL SIGNS TO PLAY BASKETBALL AT WILMINGTON COLLEGE



Senior Zaine M'Michael recently signed to continue his basketball career at Wilmington College. Pictured (l-r, back row) Gaige M'Michael, Mr. Billman, and Aewyn M'Michael; (l-r, front row) Courtenay M'Michael, Zaine M'Michael, and Scott M'Michael.

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