

The WEST BEND NEWS

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 21

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

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026

LEADERSHIP IN ACTION CLASS RAISES \$26,500 FOR SENIOR CENTER VAN PROJECT



Members of the 2025–2026 Leadership in Action class present a \$26,500 donation to the Paulding County Senior Center to help fund the purchase of a wheelchair-accessible van serving local seniors throughout the community.

PAULDING, OH — The Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce recently celebrated the graduation of the 2025–2026 Leadership in Action class following nine months of leadership development, community engagement, and hands-on learning experiences throughout Paulding County.

This year's class concluded the program by successfully reaching its fundraising goal of \$26,500 to help purchase a wheelchair-accessible van for the Paulding County Senior Center.

The van will help local seniors access meals, activities,

appointments, and transportation services throughout the region.

Leadership in Action participants spent the past year learning about leadership, communication, teamwork, civic systems, and community collaboration through tours, discussions, service projects, and relationship-building experiences designed to strengthen future leaders throughout Paulding County.

As their class service project, participants partnered with the Paulding County Senior Center and the United Way of Paulding County to help address the

growing transportation needs of local seniors.

A special thank you goes to Lora Lyons, Director of United Way of Paulding County, for partnering with this year's class and helping coordinate sponsorship support for the project. United Way of Paulding County reported that more than \$18,100 was raised through sponsorships alone toward the van project.

Additional funds were raised through community-supported events including the Leadership in Action Pistols & Purses raffle and the

(Continued on Page 3)

A.C.D.C. INVITES COMMUNITY TO JOIN 2026 ANTWERP DAYS PARADE

The Antwerp Community Development Committee is inviting area businesses, organizations, churches, sports teams, and community groups to take part in the 2026 Antwerp Days Parade on Saturday, June 6.

This year's parade theme is "Game Day Rally," encouraging participants to show their team spirit with jerseys, pom-poms, school colors, and sports-themed entries as the community comes together for one of Antwerp's biggest annual celebrations.

The parade will begin at

10:30 a.m. in downtown Antwerp. The route will start at Antwerp School, travel down Canal Street to Main Street, and conclude at the Antwerp Manor Assisted Living facility.

Line-up for parade participants will begin at 8:45 a.m. at Antwerp School, with all entries required to be lined up and ready by 9:45 a.m.

Following the parade, Antwerp Days festivities will continue downtown from 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m. with food, entertainment, and family activities planned throughout the day.

Organizers noted there is no entry fee to participate in the parade.



Scan the QR code below for the Parade Form, fill out and return to ACDC ASAP! Due by 5/30/26

Parade registration forms must be submitted by Friday, May 30, 2026. Scan the QR code for your Form. Forms may be emailed to Dustin Sensabaugh at sensabdm@air-products.com or mailed to 1689 Road 188, Antwerp, OH 45813. Questions may be directed to Sensabaugh at 419-506-0576.

RECLAIMED LIVING TO HOST SECOND ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

Reclaimed Living, Paulding County's sober living housing, is hosting its second annual fundraising dinner on Friday, June 26. The event, to be held at the Branch Christian Fellowship at 109 North Main Street, Paulding, also celebrates Paulding County Drug Court, now in its eleventh year.

"We are honored to share the positive impact that Drug Court and sober housing have had on the Paulding County community," says Dave Nice, Reclaimed Living's board chairman. Other board mem-

ARCHERS SHINE AT OHSAA DISTRICT MEET, SEND MULTIPLE ATHLETES TO REGIONALS

ANTWERP — Antwerp track and field athletes turned in an outstanding performance at the OHSAA District Track and Field Meet at Ayersville recently, highlighted by district championships, school records, and a strong contingent advancing to next week's regional competition in Fostoria.

Leading the way for the Archers were two district champions. The girls 4x800 relay team captured first place honors, while Amelia Graham earned a district title in the pole vault with a winning performance.

Antwerp also secured two district runner-up finishes as Braxton Peters placed second in the boys pole vault and Reese Durbin finished second in the girls 3200-meter run.

Third-place honors went to

bers are DoRetta Cline, Amber Krynock, Jane Nice, Doug Schlatter, and Jeff Summers.

"One Day at a Time" is the theme of the evening, which features a sit-down dinner served by Drug Court participants, inspirational speakers, and updates on Reclaimed Living's mission to help Paulding County residents maintain sobriety. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with appetizers and mocktails served before the 6:30 p.m. dinner. The evening will close with the return of the popular dessert auction.

Seating is limited. Email reclaimedliving613@gmail.com or contact any board member.

PERI DIST 2 CHAPTER 10 MEETING DATE SET

NOTICE: PERI District 2 Chapter 10 Paulding County will hold their meeting Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 10:00 am in the Community Room of Paulding Co. Library. Speaker will be Tim Cosey, Director Paulding County Economic Development. All are welcome.



Antwerp track athlete, Reese Durbin, recently broke the school record in the 3200M Run!

Corbin Sargent in the boys 3200-meter run, while the boys 4x800 relay team placed fourth. All of those athletes and relay teams qualified to advance to the regional meet.

Durbin added another major accomplishment to her impressive postseason by break-

(Continued on Page 6)

RELAY FOR LIFE OF PAULDING COUNTY SET FOR MAY 29 AT FAIRGROUNDS

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Paulding County will return on Friday, May 29, 2026, at the Paulding County Fairgrounds, bringing together cancer survivors, caregivers, families, and community supporters for an evening focused on hope, remembrance, and celebration.

This year's event theme is "Going for Gold: Fighting for More Tomorrows," with activities beginning at 6:00 p.m. Participants can register online at RelayForLife.org/

(Continued on Page 5)

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Reclaimed Living	12
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Sauder Feeds	8
Schmucker Construction	1
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T&C Concrete	1

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 26

- Beeswax Wrap Class @ Antwerp Library, 3p

May 27

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

May 28

- WT STEAM Center Expansion Groundbreaking @ WT HS, 11:30a

May 29

- PC Relay For Life @ PC Fairgrounds, 6p

May 31

- PC History Museum Annual Meeting @ museum, 2p
- Habitat For Humanity Open House & Dedication @ 917 George St., VW, 3p
- Antwerp Community Band Spring Concert @ Antwerp School, 2:30p

May 28-31

- Garage Sales @ Village of Payne

June 1

- FREE Summer Lunch for kids @ Sherwood Library, 12:15-12:45p (M-TH, thru 7/30)

June 3

- PC PERI Meeting @ Paulding Library, 10a
- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

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NSCC RECOGNIZES NURSING GRADUATES AT PINNING CEREMONY



NSCC Registered Nursing graduates, Spring 2026. 1st Row l-r: Hancock, Smith, Witt, Herold. 2nd Row l-r: Shafer, Doster, Maassel, Clauson, Burkhart, Covey, Froelich. Back Row l-r: Weber, Wyse, Currier, Stahl, Cruz, Hahn, Steece, Chamberlain, Zyjewski. Missing from photography: Horvath



NSCC Practical Nursing graduates, Spring 2026. Front l-r: Campos, Dickmann, Yoder, Stephey, Barraco, Plummer. Back l-r: Stephens, Singer, Yeager, Dunning, Sydney Hoffman, Brock, Lindsey Hoffman, Rose.

Northwest State Community College recognized its Nursing graduates at a recent pinning ceremony in the following areas: Practical Nursing (PN) and Registered Nursing (RN). The pinning ceremony took place on Saturday, May 9th on the Archbold campus, prior to Spring Commencement.

Graduates of the nursing programs are eligible to take the National Council Licensure Exam (NCLEX) and enter directly into the workforce, or they may transfer their credits for additional study. During the ceremony, the College recognized eight students for induction into the Alpha Delta Chapter of the Alpha Delta Nu Nursing Honor Society. In order to

qualify, students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with at least a B in all nursing classes.

Northwest State congratulates the following students for completing these healthcare programs:

Practical Nursing (14):

Emma Barraco (Bryan), Amanda Brock (Bryan), Arianna Campos (Defiance), Cassandra Dickmann (Napoleon), Makaya Dunning (Van Wert), Lindsey Hoffman (Bryan), Sydney Hoffman (Stryker), Amy Plummer (Evansport), Madalyn Rose (Defiance), Cierra Singer (Oakwood), Haley Stephens (Swanton), Pamela Stephey (Holgate), Amber Yeager (Defiance), Casaundra Yoder (Bryan)

Registered Nursing (21):

Kameron Burkhart (Defiance)*, Alexis Chamberlain (Liberty Center), Natalie Clauson (Stryker)*, Tiffanie Covey (Montpelier), Cierra Cruz (Napoleon)*, Jessie Currier (Bryan)*, Kaitlyn Doster (Paulding), Riley Froelich (Ney)*, Shelby Hahn (Bryan), Baeden Hancock (Defiance)*, Jacob Herold (Napoleon)*, Katrina Horvath (Defiance), Logan Maassel (Defiance)*, Kendra Shafer (Defiance), Karesa Smith (Defiance), Karena Stahl (Grover Hill), Evan Steece (Defiance), Miya Weber (Napoleon), Jordan Witt (Metamora), Kelly Wyse (Wauseon), Tori Zyjewski (West Unity)*

*Names with a * denote Alpha Delta Nu honors society member*

Paulding County, and Oakwood Development.

Platinum Sponsors included Paulding Putnam, Marlin & Associates Financial Services, LLC, CHP Home Care & Hospice, Midwest Community Federal Credit Union, Paulding Eagles Aerie 2405, Mighty Cubes and Dumpsters, Tri-County Roofing & Home Improvement, CORE Ministries, The Gardens of Paulding, Vancrest of

Payne, ISPN, and PASS. Gold Sponsors included Clemens Mobile Welding / JLC Transportation, Cook & Gorrell, Wenninger Seed Service Inc., Herbert E. ORR Company, Kauser Trucking, and New American Reel Company (NARCO).

Silver Sponsors included Elite Embroidery, Innovative Assembly Services LLC, Dilly Door Co, Sally Voirol, George and Beth Scheiner, and Douglas & Joyce Laukhuf. Bronze Sponsors included Jennifer Ramsier, Stan & Barb Searing, Mansfield Welding Service, LLC, and David Nizen.

Additional thanks go to Ebel's Butcher Shop for donating the pork for the class's sold-out Community Lunch fundraiser, as well as Paulding Ace Hardware and McDougal Firearms for supporting the Pistols & Purses raffle, and My102.7 for helping to spread the word about this project over the radio.

Graduates of the 2025-2026 Leadership in Action class included Erin Bustos,

Luke Burkhart, Devon Elston, Zach Gorrell, Luke Hennenkratt, Blaine Hoffman, Corey Laukhuf, Erin Laukhuf, Caleb Miller, Emily Schlegel, Stacy Schnipke, Jessica Stechschulte, Tricia Taylor, and Tiffany Rockhold.

"This project truly became a countywide community effort," said the Chamber. "The support shown by businesses, organizations, volunteers, and community members throughout Paulding County made this possible, and the impact of this van will continue serving local seniors for years to come."

Leadership in Action is a Chamber-led leadership development initiative designed to strengthen connections, develop local leaders, and encourage community engagement throughout Paulding County.

Individuals interested in participating in future Leadership in Action classes or supporting the program may contact the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce at 419-399-5215 or visit pauldingchamber.com for more information.

FAMILY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN'S SERVICE TO PATIENTS CONTINUES AT NEW ANTWERP LOCATION



Vasavi Reddy, MD

For 15 years, Vasavi Reddy, MD, Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) – Family Medicine, has provided compassionate, personalized care for individuals and families in northwest Ohio. That care continues, but soon, from a new location.

In June, Dr. Reddy will relocate from 9742 U.S. 127 in Sherwood to a new PPG – Family Medicine office 20 minutes away at 422 West River Street in Antwerp. Patient appointments at this location will begin on Tuesday, June 2.

For the past several months, Reddy and her team have seen patients in the Sherwood office on an interim basis, having relocated from their previous office in Hicksville on the campus of the former Community Memorial Hospital. PPG had leased the space to ensure continuity of care for family medicine patients even after the hospital closed in 2024. However, once the hospital was in receivership, PPG was notified in late fall of 2025 that the property would be put up for auction, so Dr. Reddy's team was moved to the Sherwood office temporarily last December. The West River Street office in Antwerp will be their new home.

Before joining Parkview in 2024, Reddy served as Community Memorial Hospital's chief of staff and provided primary care to area residents at both the hospital and her family medicine office. She also served as an emergency medicine physician and created the hospital's first occu-

Scripture of the Week

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."

— Galatians 5:13

GIVE THANKS



Psalms 107:1 (NIV): "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."

This verse serves as a powerful reminder of the inherent goodness of God and His everlasting love. It begins with a call to gratitude – "Give thanks to the Lord" – emphasizing the importance of recognizing and acknowledging God's blessings in our lives. Gratitude is not only a response to specific acts of kindness but also an attitude of the heart that fosters a deeper relationship with God.

When we maintain an attitude of gratitude, it separates us from our dissatisfactions and increases our overall sense of happiness and joy.

The phrase "for he is good" encapsulates God's character.

Goodness here refers to His nature, which is defined by righteousness, kindness, and mercy. This goodness stands in stark contrast to the imperfections and failings we often find in ourselves and others.

The latter part of the verse, "his love endures forever," highlights the eternal and unchanging nature of God's love. Unlike human love, which can fluctuate based on circumstances, God's love is steadfast and always available, offering comfort and assurance to those who seek Him. This steadfast love is a core theme throughout the Psalms and underscores that, no matter the challenges or trials we face, God's love remains a constant source of strength and hope.

Reflecting on Psalm 107:1, we are encouraged to cultivate a heart of gratitude, recognizing both God's goodness and the permanence of His love, as these truths can inspire us to trust Him more deeply in our daily lives. Whether in times of joy or struggle, this verse invites us to return to a place of thankfulness, grounding us in the assurance that we are loved and cared for by a good and faithful God. May God bless you.

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

pational health program.

Prior to arriving in Hicksville in 2012, Reddy completed her family medicine residency at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, Ill., after having received her medical degree. She completed her undergraduate studies at Villanova University in Villanova, Penn., earning bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology and graduating with honors.

She is board certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. She is also fluent in Spanish.

Dr. Reddy takes pride in gaining a thorough understanding of each person's situation and background so she can provide truly patient-centered care.

"I love meeting new people and hearing their stories," she said. "Being a family doctor in a rural area is so humbling because I get to know the whole person, their family and often the other community members that impact each person's mental and physical health. I always do what I can to get to the bottom of a problem, not just of-

fer temporary solutions. It's what I would want if I asked a doctor for help."

In addition to primary care, Reddy offers occupational health services, including Department of Transportation (DOT) physicals, pre-employment physicals, workers' compensation injury care, and drug screens.

Outside of work, family life keeps her busy. She and her husband, Dr. Ashish Sud, a section chief of anesthesia for Parkview, have three young daughters who are involved in activities and sports.

"If I get leisure time, I enjoy running outside and having a cup of coffee while listening to medical podcasts," said Reddy, a former NYC Marathon runner and rock-climbing instructor.

Dr. Reddy welcomes patients of all ages, from newborns to older adults. To schedule an appointment at the Antwerp office, call 419-567-6350. Office hours are: 7:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Friday, and 7:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. on Thursday.

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A LITTLE FISH IN A CAN

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

What are they? They are small, I think they are stinky and I have always seen them in a can. A lot of people like to eat them on crackers, but it scares me to look at them. There is a picture on a webpage of these little things in a can trying to escape.

By now, you may guess that the contents of the can includes little tiny fish called sardines. You can get them canned in oil, mustard or catsup and other sauces. When I look at sardines and how small they are, my first question is I wonder how and where they catch them.

Sardines have been around for years and travel in schools together around the waters of the Atlantic and Pacific.

Nets are used to catch them with thousands being caught at once. Keeping sardines fresh is important to preserving them until they get to a cannery or a point of sale.

I don't think I have ever seen fresh sardines in a meat market but I do know fresh ones have to be decapitated and cleaned before cooking. I know I know you do the same to a big fish too.

I asked a few people if they had ever ate sardines and a lot of them had not. There is a story about a family who bought a can of sardines. When they opened the can they noticed that one sardine had a distended stomach.

They found little dark eggs in the poor pregnant mama sardine and it was determined it had been caught during spawning

It is said, and I don't know, but they say some folks consider the dark eggs as a treat and bonus. They call it Roe.

There are actually people who love sardines and try every kind there is. It is always

challenging to find the best tasting little fish.

Here is one guy's story: He said "I thought I wanted a good sardine, which I heard was Nuri. So I looked on Amazon and bought 10 cans for 50 bucks. \$5 a can is a little pricey but way cheaper than most peoples lunches."

"I was blown away how good they tasted. I normally eat King Oscar brand, which is of course a high quality brand, and I felt the Nuri was in a whole other category of quality. These were spiced in olive oil. I ate them straight out of the tin with a side of toast and baba ghanoush, a whole raw red pepper, a handful of Italian olives and almonds, a slice of avocado, and for dessert I had blackberries. I will try to get a photo next time but for anyone on the fence about it, try Nuri! I couldn't believe how good they tasted and I'm excited to try more Spanish and Portuguese brands going



forward"

I really don't care how much a sardine costs or how good they taste, I really don't want to try them, but I am curious to find a market that sells fresh ones. I wonder how many people like and eat sardines?

Health-wise they are very good for you to eat, even the soft bones. It is said that you feel really good after eating sardines, but I don't know if it meant a whole can or one. Maybe we should all eat sardines because they boost your brain and body with their nutrients. So my final word to you is Let's all eat some sardines and they will make us feel young again.

Do you like sardines? Have you ever bought or cooked any fresh ones?if you happen to like and eat sardines, let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

com and exploring the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry page on Facebook.

Potential renters should contact Event Coordinator Brent Fishbaugh at (419) 378-2068 or the First Presbyterian Church of Paulding, Ohio at (419) 399-2438. Renters may also stop in to the church (114 West Caroline Street) during office hours to pick up a rental agreement and reserve a space. Interested parties may ask questions and find further

information about the church (including office hours) and the sale at www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianpaulding. Donation items for the sale will be taken throughout July with hours and locations posted on the church and pantry's social media sites. Community donations and patronage are core to the success of this endeavor and are just one reason the Food Pantry mission is such a success.

PJHS MAY POSITIVE PANTHERS



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Positive Panther per grade level. These students are recognized for the positive character traits they exhibit as students of Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Maria Silvia Gastelum Lopez (Grade 8), Jayla Bittering (Grade 7), and Avery Parrett (Grade 6).

PJHS MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Each month Paulding Junior High School teachers select one Student of the Month per grade level. These students are recognized for being some of the top academic performers at Paulding Junior High School. Shown in the picture from left are Angel Reno (Grade 6), Devin Scott (Grade 7), and Miranda Lewis (Grade 8).

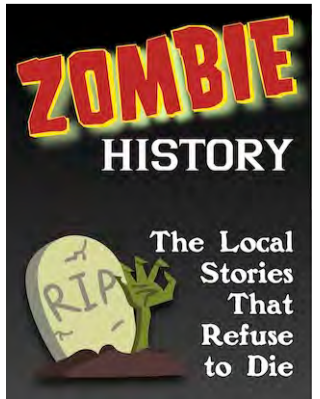
HICKSVILLE'S JOHNSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY EXTENDS HOURS

Beginning June 1, Hicksville's Johnson Memorial Library, 116 W. High St., will open earlier, at 9:30 a.m., on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

The library's hours will be Monday from 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesday from 9:30 a.m.-7 p.m., and Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Johnson Memorial Library is closed on Thursdays and Sundays.

MUSEUM'S ANNUAL MEETING TO INCLUDE 'ZOMBIE HISTORY' PROGRAM



PAULDING - The Paulding County History Museum

will hold its annual membership meeting and election of directors at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31, at the museum in Paulding. The public is cordially invited to attend. The program and meeting are free and open to everyone.

The annual meeting was postponed from February due to an extensive project to upgrade the original electrical system and renovate the 35-year-old kitchen and dining room area.

The program will feature speakers Kim Sutton and Melinda Krick, both past presidents of the museum, who will present "Zombie History: The Local Stories That Refuse to Die." "Zombie History" is a term coined by a historian to describe incorrect historical accounts that are repeatedly accepted and passed down through generations as truth. The pair received an enthusiastic response for the same program at the Ohio Local History Alliance's 11-county northwest regional meeting earlier this spring.

Area residents are encouraged to attend and learn more about Paulding County's fascinating history and what the museum has planned for 2026.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

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

MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Floyd L. Tabler was born January 24, 1901, in Paulding County, the son of Charles G. Tabler, born October 24, 1873, in Auglaize County, Ohio, and Emma May (Stahl) Tabler, born May 17, 1876, in Paulding County, Ohio.

Charles' father, Marion Thomas Jefferson Tabler, was a Spanish-American War veteran. He passed away January 31, 1924, and was buried in Hedges Cemetery. I strayed off again, didn't I? Sorry. Anyway, Charles and Emma were married May 7, 1894, in Paulding. By 1900, the couple was living in Jackson Township, where Charles worked as a day laborer. The family consisted of Wretha, born October 1894; Nellie Mae, born October 1896; and Genevieve "Jennie," born October 1898.

By 1910, the family was still living in Broughton, Jackson Township. Charles was working at the tile mill, possibly the Baughman Tile Mill. The family had grown with the births of Floyd in January 1901 and William Howard in March 1909. On June 11, 1909, Emma passed away and was buried in Hedges Cemetery.

On November 12, 1915, Charles married Lydia Ann Golliver in Jackson, Michigan. She was born August 3, 1869, in Ohio.

On July 3, 1916, Floyd joined the National Guard out of Paulding, serving with

Company B, 2nd Ohio National Guard. This unit was sent to the border between Mexico and the United States during the unrest and attacks against United States citizens. He served in the National Guard until October 16, 1917, when he was assigned to Company K, 146th U.S. Infantry, serving as a private until March 24, 1918.

He was then sent to Camp Sheridan, Alabama, to serve as a replacement soldier until May 29, 1918. He was assigned to Company I, 104th Infantry, as a private and was sent to France. He served in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne Defensive Sectors and was wounded in action around October 29, 1918.

After recovering from his wounds, he boarded the ship Mount Vernon at Brest, France, and sailed for home. He arrived in Boston, Massachusetts, on April 4, 1919. His grandfather, Marion Tabler, picked him up there. Floyd was honorably discharged April 23, 1919.

After returning home, Floyd moved to Pennsylvania and began farming in Cambridge, Beaver County. On Tuesday, November 30, 1920, at 9:00 p.m., Floyd was killed by a train at Ambridge, sixteen miles from Pittsburgh. The American Red Cross was asked to locate the family. Found in Floyd's pocket were his discharge papers, photographs, and documents containing his name and military record.

His remains were shipped back to Paulding and arrived Friday, December 2, 1920. The body was taken to the home of his sister, Mrs. Stanley Howe, west of Paulding, where funeral services were held. Rev. Wilkins officiated, and burial followed at Hedges Cemetery, Lot 11, Block A, Grave 3.

Charles passed away in 1959 and was buried in Hedges Cemetery. Floyd's sister Nellie passed away in 1966, William in 1969, and Wretha in 1975.

...Until Next Time!

YEARLY 127 YARD SALE FOOD PANTRY FUNDRAISER



After raising more than \$5,000 last year for the community, the First Presbyterian Church of Paulding is once again offering vendor rental spaces in its parking lot during the 127 Yard Sale. As always, proceeds from booth rentals and select item sales will go to support the local Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. Spaces are available from Wednesday, August 5, through Saturday, August 8, with setup beginning at 10 am on Tuesday, August 4. 20'x20' and 20'x30' spaces are available for the entire 4-day event. Restrooms, refreshments, and air conditioning will be available for visitors inside the church. With area for more than 20

vendors, this highly visible site, just steps from downtown, is an ideal location for whatever you want to be rid of. Several local restaurants are within a couple blocks, with fast food located seconds away to the north on 127.

Profits from the 127 Yard Sale will go to support the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry, located at 318 Walnut Street in Paulding. The non-profit provides around 80,000 meals a year to food insecure members of the community. Information about how to volunteer or donate as well as the services offered can be found by contacting the food pantry at (419) 399-9562, emailing pauldingfoodpantry@gmail.

Guests may tour the new kitchen and browse exhibits before and after the meeting.

Upcoming events include a quilt show starting June 8. The museum will be open daily June 8-13 during the county

fair, held across the street. Admission is free.

The museum is located at 600 Fairground Drive in Paulding. Regular hours are Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office

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

There are two basic services the agency provides:

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

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

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

Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments

Any questions, please call 419-399-8285

PAULDING VFW POST MAKE DONATION TO LILY CREEK FARMS



Pictured (L-R) are Ryan Goings, John Daeger, Jami Young, Executive Director of Lily Creek Farms, Harry Manley, and Roger Flint.

Members of John Paulding VFW Post 587 recently visited Lily Creek Farms near Napoleon, Ohio to present a \$5,000 donation to support their therapeutic riding center.

Lily Creek Farms' mission is to heal mind, body, and spirit through equine-assisted and other farm related activities. Lily Creek Farms also offers specialized programming for veterans and their families. These programs include riding and unmounted classes designed to help with the emotional and physical scars of military service.

For more information about Lily Creek Farms visit their website at www.lily-creekfarms.org.

PROJECT 2030 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AND FUTURE VISION



Pictured are (l-r) Dan Michel - DAF Board President, Jake Oberlin - Project 2030 Committee President and Defiance City Mayor Mike McCann.

The Defiance Area Foundation's Project 2030 members gathered for their Annual Meeting at Iron Horse Brews in Sherwood, Ohio, for an evening centered on community vision, partnership, and future possibilities for Defiance County. The meeting brought together Project 2030 members, Foundation representatives, and City of Defiance leadership for meaningful conversation about what could be possible by the year 2030. Mayor Mike McCann shared a presentation on the City Parks Plan, helping attendees visualize current community planning efforts, future opportunities, and ideas that could inspire continued discussion among Project 2030 members. The evening reflected the growing partnership and

community spirit between the Defiance Area Foundation, Project 2030 members, and the City of Defiance. As Project 2030 continues working toward its goal of raising \$500,000 by 2030, these conversations help encourage big-picture thinking around a future project that could serve Defiance County for generations to come. The newly elected Project 2030 officers were also announced: Jake Oberlin, Committee President; Bridget Oberlin, Committee Vice President; Chelsie Schroeder, Committee Secretary; and Brooke Bostelman, Committee Treasurer. To learn more about Project 2030 or how to become a member, visit defianceareafoundation.org/project-2030.

GOD CALLS US

By: James Neuhouser

There is a book 3 in thick containing stories of people that have given their life for their faith. People that didn't believe exactly as others thought they should. The same people that escaped to America because they were not allowed to practice their religion, came here and persecuted other Christians for the way they practiced their religion. In Boston, Puritan's hanged Quaker missionaries. Virginia required all to attend Anglican services or be put in stocks in the public

square. I've read that eight of the 13 original colonies mandated everyone to attend Anglican



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YOUR LIBRARY IN JUNE

The Paulding County Carnegie Library is gearing up for the 2026 Summer Reading Program, "Unearth Your Story" and the "250th Anniversary". We have some amazing things planned for the summer. Register at your local library. The library is teaming up with Caring and Sharing Food Pantry for the month of June. Donations can be dropped off at any library location. Bring a non-perishable and non-expired food item to any of the libraries. The library will be closed on Friday, June 19th in obser-

vance of Juneteenth. Excuse all the construction, it will be an exciting addition to the library when completed. The library offers curbside service while the back entrance is closed. Just call 419-399-2032 and our staff will be happy to bring the books to you as you wait in your car. Parking is available on the street or in our lot across the street.

The Adult section of the main branch is having "Classic Movie Wednesdays", we will be showing a classic movie each Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., free popcorn for the viewing.

Coffee Talk will continue Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Enjoy some conversation and a light snack.

Black Swamp Bookworms meet on Tuesday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m. "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman is this month selection.

Adult and Teen Craft is Tuesday, June 16 at 11:00 a.m., until supplies last.

Adult Bingo Luncheon is on Monday, June 22 at 11:00 a.m., Call to register.

Adult Cookbook Club is on June 22, at 5:30 p.m., the theme is Cookout and Strawberries.

Teen Cooking Club is on Monday June 29 at 4:00 p.m., Grilling and Chilling is the theme.

"Teen Chat" is new this year. We encourage Teens to Hang Out at the Library. Tuesday and Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m., sit, chat and snack with your friends or make new ones. Snacks and drinks are provided.

The Children's Room has some exciting plans for the summer; there will be a Storytime with Kirk on June 24th at 11:00 a.m.

Sign up for Summer Reading get your log and books and start reading. Daddy and Me Craft on Saturday, June 13, 2026; 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., while supplies last. Build and paint a birdhouse with Dad.

The Cuddle Shuttle will be here on June 25th, 3:00-6:00 p.m. Hands on experience with cute animals.

Tales By Tonalee Shinaberry-King will be here on June 30th at 11:00 a.m., for a special story time with her new book "More Than a Mushroom Hunt".

There will be crafts and activities all month long in the children's room.

ANTWERP BRANCH:

The Antwerp Branch will have Summer Reading Storytime every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at Antwerp Park, unless it is raining then it will be at the library.

Special Summer Reading Program with Author Tonalee Shinaberry-King on Wednesday, June 24th at 11:30 a.m., with "More Than a Mushroom Hunt"

Craft Friday's-stop in during library hours to make a craft to take home.

Book Club is on Monday June 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Cookbook Club is on Monday, June 15th at 5:45 p.m.

OAKWOOD BRANCH:

The Oakwood Branch will have the Summer Food Program Monday through Friday 11:00-11:30 a.m. beginning June 3.

Library staff will be at the Paulding County Fair, beginning June 8, offering fun activities and programs for families.

June 9 will be our facebook riddle, winner will be an-

MAUMEE VALLEY NETWORK ANNOUNCES APRIL AMERICAN FLAG GIVEAWAY RECIPIENT



VAN WERT COUNTY, OHIO — Maumee Valley Network (MVN) has announced Ronald "Ron" Lamb of Van Wert County as the April recipient of the MVN American Flag Giveaway Program.

Lamb, a United States Air Force Vietnam veteran, was nominated through the Maumee Valley Network Facebook page by Jay Le'lamb, who described him as a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who has endured hardships through "duty, health, and sacrifice" while continuing to bring smiles to those around him.

Mr. Lamb recently received his American flag from Gabriel Etzler of Lee Kinstle Sales & Service during the monthly presentation.

The MVN American Flag Giveaway Program recognizes veterans and community members who have demonstrated service, sacrifice, lead-

ership, and dedication to others. Community members submit nominations through the pinned post on the Maumee Valley Network Facebook page, with recipients selected monthly based on merit and community impact.

The program is made possible through a partnership between Maumee Valley Network, Lee Kinstle Sales & Service, and Collins Flags.

"Programs like this allow us to recognize individuals in our communities whose stories deserve to be highlighted," said Scott Bigham of Maumee Valley Network. "There are many people throughout our region who quietly serve others and make a difference every day."

Additional nominations for future flag recipients are currently being accepted through the Maumee Valley Network Facebook page.

nounced June 10.

Seniors are invited to the Senior Bingo luncheon on June 11 at 12:00 Noon, and Mrs. Ropers Craft Blast will also meet that day at 5:00 p.m.

June 15th, guest speaker Mark Holtsberry will discuss historic veterans of Paulding County at 5:00 p.m.

The Adult Cookbook Club will meet on June 18 at 5:30 p.m.

Be sure to sign up for the Adult Sugar Scrub workshop on Saturday, June 20 at 11:00 a.m.

Children ages 5-12 can participate in the "Design Your Own Dino" contest June 23-30, with the winner announced July 1.

PAYNE BRANCH:

The Payne Branch will

have Summer Reading Program every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. We will be at the park unless it's raining, then come to the library. Sign up at the branch, all ages can participate. Stop inside for a reading log.

Special Summer Reading Tuesday, June 23rd at 11:00 a.m., with Local Author Tonalee. Come listen to the Author talk about her book.

Horticulture Hot Topic with Sarah Noggle, Thursday, June 18th, 5:30-6:30 p.m. Topic: Invasive Species Control in Ohio.

Donuts with Dad on Saturday, June 20th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p. Stop in and enjoy a donut with dad or someone special to you. We will have a craft to make to take home.

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

Send your news, ads, and classifieds to info@westbendnews.net

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TEA & STYLE SHOW SUPPORTS OAKWOOD LIBRARY PROGRAMS



Members and guests gathered at Cooper Community Library for a Tea & Style Show held May 9, 2026, hosted by Oakwood Library Association. About a dozen table hosts created and decorated tables in their own original themes for the event. Guests enjoyed a tea party-style meal complete with iced tea, and

even Santa Claus stopped by to join in the festivities, as pictured.

The Tea is one of the events the Association plans each spring to support the Cooper Community Library in Oakwood. The group also organizes the annual Chocolate Extravaganza during the late winter months.

(Continued from Page 1)

PauldingCounty. Relay For Life events are held nationwide to raise awareness and funds for cancer research, patient support services, and advocacy efforts through the American Cancer Society. The Paulding County event also serves as an opportunity for local families affected by cancer to come together and support one another.

As part of this year's event, three local residents have been named Honorary Survivors

for 2026: Tammy Clark, Matt Reineck, and Debbie Carter.

Tammy Clark was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer in June 2024 after a routine mammogram detected what neither she nor her doctors had felt during examinations. Her treatment included chemotherapy, surgery, a double mastectomy, reconstruction, and continued oral chemotherapy. Today, she is cancer free. Clark now strongly encourages others to stay current with routine screenings, crediting early detection for helping save her

life. She also spoke about the emotional and spiritual challenges of her journey and how participating in Relay For Life as a survivor gave new meaning to the event.

Matt Reineck was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in October 2023 after persistent back pain and additional testing revealed weakened bones and multiple fractures. He underwent chemotherapy treatments and is currently in remission. Reineck said his cancer journey strengthened his faith and helped him focus more intentionally on what matters most in life. He credits his family, friends, medical team, and prayer support for helping him through treatment.

Debbie Carter's cancer journey began in 1990 during a routine prenatal appointment while pregnant with her third child, when testing revealed cervical cancer. After the birth of her baby, Carter underwent treatment and eventually received clear results following a second cone biopsy. She has remained in remission since 1991. Carter credits her faith, family, church community, and compassionate medical care for helping her through one of the most difficult periods of her life. She has participated in Relay For Life for the past 20 years and says the event continues to remind her that no one faces cancer alone.

Organizers encourage the community to attend the May 29 event to honor survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, and support ongoing cancer research and patient assistance programs through the American Cancer Society.

SHERWOOD FRIENDS, VFW TO HOST CELEBRATION FOR VETERANS

In honor of Flag Day and the USA's 250th birthday, the Friends of Sherwood Branch Library and Sherwood VFW Post 5665 will cohost a special celebration for veterans on June 9.

The event will take place at the Sherwood VFW, 115 Cedar St., beginning with dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by the VFW's weekly drawing and guest speakers at 6:30 p.m. Dinner is free for all veterans who call to register (419-899-4343) by May 30.

Speakers will include Erin Clady of the Defiance County Veterans Office, and Renee Hopper of Defiance Public Library System.

This program is geared to adults. For more information, contact Sherwood Branch Li-

brary at 419-899-4343.

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY SPRING 2026 DEAN'S HONOR LIST

Audrey Giesige of Paulding, was named to the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University for Spring 2026. This recognition requires the student to obtain a 3.75 GPA or higher for the semester and carry a minimum of 12 credit hours.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and online programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in The Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates

HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SPRING SEMESTER DEAN'S LIST

Heidelberg University has announced the names of 374 students who have earned academic recognition on the Spring Semester dean's list.

According to Provost Dr. Courtney DeMayo Pugno, students must be enrolled full time and meet academic criteria set forth by the university to be named to the dean's list. Below are the students in your readership area:

Antwerp, OH:
Kam Johnson, freshman
Hayden Wagner, senior

Heidelberg University, located in Tiffin, OH, is a welcoming, student-centered university of Opportunity makers, which celebrated its 175th Anniversary in earlier this academic year. At its core, Heidelberg prepares students to be global citizens who think critically, communicate effectively and serve thoughtfully. Our curriculum offers 32 majors, 30 minors and 10 pre-professional programs, integrating liberal arts and professional preparation. Heidelberg awards the Bachelor of Arts, Science, Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Music degrees, and master's degrees in Counseling, Business Administration and Athletic Training.

EMERGENCY FUNDS OFFER BREATHING ROOM WHEN IT MATTERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

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

Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

Scott: Scott Post Office

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

INDIANA LOCATIONS

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

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

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

Hoagland: Hoagland Pizza Pub, Mel's Town Market

Milan Center: Milan Center Feed & Grain

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

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

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

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HWC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM ANTWERP



The HWC Foundation recently presented a quartet of scholarships to students at Antwerp High School. Shown in the picture are Jessica Kappeler (HWC Foundation) along with Antwerp seniors Hampton Rogge, Haydyn

Lengacher, Zaine McMichael and Raelynne Zuber. Recipients are selected based on achievements in academics, participation in activities and demonstrating passion for future goals.

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER HONORS 250 GRADUATES AT 2026 SENIOR AWARDS CEREMONY



Caden Meyer Scholarship recipients: Bryceson Pease and Tyler Hankinson of PHS.

Van Wert, Ohio - Family, friends, and representatives from Vantage Career Center's 13 associate school districts filled the Van Wert High School gymnasium on Monday, May 18, 2026, to celebrate the achievements of the Class of 2026 during the annual Senior Awards Ceremony. As the graduating class of Vantage Career Center's 50th Anniversary year, the 250 seniors were recognized for their hard

work, dedication, and accomplishments throughout their educational journey. Highlights of the ceremony included Awards of Distinction, special recognitions, and an impressive \$843,143 awarded in scholarships, marking a memorable milestone year and reflecting the bright futures ahead for this exceptional graduating class. The evening reflected the heart of the Vantage experi-

(Continued from Page 1)

ing Antwerp's school record in the girls 3200-meter run. Durbin posted a new school-best time of 12:17.17, surpassing the previous record of 12:26.4 set by Alexis Godeke in 2007.

Antwerp athletes also performed well during district preliminaries, qualifying numerous competitors for the district finals (which took place on May 23).

Advancing to finals were Zaine McMichael in both the 110-meter hurdles and 300-meter hurdles; Kora Zuber in

the 100-meter dash and 200-meter dash; Mia Stoye in the 300-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash; Reese Durbin in the 1600-meter run and 800-meter run; Colten Sargent in the 800-meter run; and Corbin Sargent and Leigha Doster in the 1600-meter run.

The Archers also qualified both the girls 4x200-meter relay and girls 4x100-meter relay teams consisting of Amelia Graham, Kora Zuber, Gianna Laker, and Mia Stoye.

Additional finals results included Gianna Laker earning a fifth-place finish in the girls 3200-meter run.



Great Clips Scholarship recipient: Lyla Clem.

ence—celebrating growth, perseverance, and preparing students for life beyond the classroom. Student speaker Brooklyn King, an Early Childhood Education senior from Paulding, captured the spirit of the night in her address, reflecting on the impact Vantage had on her class and the future that lies ahead.

"The foundation we've built here will carry us forward, helping us make a difference wherever we go," King shared. She also reminded her classmates that "we're not just graduates—we're the future leaders, creators, caregivers, and change-makers." Her words reflected not only the



Robert C. Stevens Scholarship recipient: Felicia Martz

journey of the Class of 2026, but also the legacy Vantage has built over the past 50 years, empowering students with the skills, confidence, and opportunities needed to succeed far beyond graduation.

Each year, one student from their career-technical program is selected to receive the prestigious "Award of Distinction," recognizing exceptional leadership, academic excellence, skill mastery, and character. The 2026 recipients are:

Tyler Gurwell (Auto Collision); Cora Meyer (Ag & Industrial Power); Taten Long (Auto Technologies); Alex Groch (Carpentry); Macie Pugh (Cosmetology); Annelise Price (Early Childhood Education); Brady Thomsen (Electricity); Jayci Blue (Medical Assistant); Bela Fiedler (Health Technologies); Chase German (Industrial Mechanics); Xander Bartley (Network Systems); Luke Hoffman (Machining & Engineering Technologies); Caren Winans (Sports Exercise Therapy)

Special industry-sponsored presentations added to the excitement. Kennedy Manufacturing honored two students with high-performance tool chests: Luke Ray (Paulding) received a Machinist's Rolling Tool Chest as the outstanding Precision Machining senior, and Chase German (Fort Jennings) received a Maintenance Rolling Tool Chest for excellence in Industrial Mechanics.

Numerous scholarships were awarded to students who

demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and outstanding program achievement:

Robert C. Stevens Scholarship - Brooklyn Stone (Fort Jennings) and Annabelle Hoffman (Delphos Jefferson); Van Wert Rotary Scholarship - Felicia Martz (Van Wert); Robert Brandt Scholarship - Eric Reinhart (Wayne Trace) presented by Vantage Superintended Rick Turner; Great Clips Scholarship - Lyla Clem (Antwerp); Marcus Landin Memorial Tool Award - Rhetik Bowers (Continental); Caden Meyer Scholarship - Bryson Pease (Paulding) and Tyler Hankinson (Paulding);



Award of Distinction recipient: Caren Winans.

Wyatt E. Davis Memorial Award - Caren Winans (Wayne Trace); Zachary J. Wood Scholarship - Landon Nagel (Van Wert); Robbie Sefernick Memorial Award (for a junior Welding student) - Oliver Kahle (Kalida)

In addition, 38 students were honored with National Technical Honor Society cords, reflecting their academic excellence and leadership, while five students celebrated a remarkable achievement of perfect attendance throughout the school year, including Hannah Vetter of Van Wert who had perfect attendance for the last two



Robert C. Stevens Scholarship recipient: Eric Reinhart.

years.

The evening concluded with the recognition of every student who received scholarships during their time at Vantage, totaling an astounding \$843,143 awarded to support students' post-secondary goals.

As the 250 members of the Class of 2026 begin the next chapter of their journeys through careers, college programs, apprenticeships, and military service, they leave Vantage equipped with the hands-on skills, knowledge, and experiences needed to succeed.

As the graduating class of Vantage Career Center's 50th Anniversary year, they carry forward a legacy of excellence while representing the future of skilled professionals and leaders in their communities.

Congratulations to the Vantage Career Center Class of 2026 on this remarkable ac-

complishment and all that lies ahead.

Senior Academic Awards were presented to:

Mrs. Webster's Functional English - Dominik Johnson; Mr. Unverferth's US Military History - Cole English; Mr. Unverferth's Financial Literacy and Sports History - Dylan Schaefer; Mr. Putthoff's Algebra II part 2 - Maddisyn Pescosoldo; Ms. Oechsle's Financial Literacy - Mavericj Grant; Ms. Oechsle's Sociology - Henry "Hank" Walpole; Mrs. Yenser-Hammon's English IV - Zaria Harter; Mr. McConahay's English 12 - Cole English; Mrs. Hortsman's Advanced Quantitative Reasoning - Griffin Kosch; Mr. Joyce's Drones Part 107 - Corbin Sargent; Mrs. Reinhart's English IV - Cole Miller; Mrs. Reinhart's English IV - Delana Noggle; Mrs. Kistler's Math-Geometry - Audrey Dougal; Mrs. Drerup's Material Science - Zachary Hohlbein; Mrs. Evans' English 12 - Annelise Price

WAUSEON TAKES OPENER BEFORE PAULDING ANSWERS IN SPLIT

Paulding and Wauseon split a baseball doubleheader over May 16, with Wauseon winning the opener 13-4 before the Panthers rallied for a 9-8 victory in game two.

In the first game, Wauseon used a big third inning and a six-run sixth to pull away for the win. The Indians finished with 10 hits while taking advantage of three Paulding errors.

Rico Vazquez earned the win for Wauseon, allowing one earned run on three hits over four innings while striking out four. Ridge Hunt took the loss for Paulding after pitching five innings. Easton Lehman and Tyler Goyings also worked in relief for the Panthers.

Paulding collected 10 hits in the loss. Grady Arend and Zachary Barton each had two singles, while Stroker Etter added two singles, scored once, and drove in a run. Nick Baughman also had two singles and an RBI. Easton Lehman singled, scored twice, and drove in a run, and Wes Grindstaff added a single.

Wauseon was led offensively by Maddox Schneider, who doubled, homered, scored twice, and drove in four runs. Brady McGuire doubled and had three RBIs, while Thad Reckner singled, homered, and drove in two runs. Jack Altstaetter added two singles and scored three times, Logan Custard singled and drove in two runs, and Lane Wallischeck and Jack Croninger each singled.

In the second game, Paulding answered with a comeback victory, scoring four runs in the sixth inning to secure a 9-

8 win.

The Panthers totaled 12 hits in the contest. Easton Lehman doubled, scored, and drove in three runs, while Nick Baughman collected three singles, scored once, and had an RBI. Ridge Hunt had two singles and scored twice, Jackson Griffith added two singles and a run scored, and Stroker Etter doubled and drove in two runs. Grady Arend singled, scored, and drove in a run, while Tyler Goyings singled and scored. Colten Hunt also scored, and Zachary Barton added an RBI and a run scored.

Tyler Goyings earned the win in relief for Paulding after pitching the final three innings. Wes Grindstaff started and worked four innings for the Panthers.

For Wauseon, Kahle Albright powered the offense with a single, home run, and four RBIs. Jack Altstaetter doubled and scored twice, while Thad Reckner had two singles, two runs scored, and an RBI. Logan Custard, Cedric Taylor, and Rico Vazquez each added singles for the Indians.

GMC ANNOUNCES 2026 SPRING SCHOLAR ATHLETES

The Green Meadows Conference has announced its Spring 2026 Scholar Athletes, recognizing senior student-athletes who have excelled both academically and athletically throughout their high school careers.

To qualify for the honor, students must be seniors, participate and letter in a recognized sport or cheerleading program and maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average after seven semesters.

Antwerp's honorees included Leigha Doster, Raelynne Zuber, Hampton Rogge, Corbin Sargent, Marcelo Cruz, Nikalas Brandenburg, Colten Sargent, Miley Jewell and Zaine McMichael.

Ayersville recognized Kaden Booher, Aeriella Brown, Dylan Brown, Allyssa Coble, Eli Doster, Allison Eldridge, Grace Flory, Makayla Laker-Sierra, Levi McConnell, Brooklyn Michel, Gabriella Miles, Jazlyn Sheets, Kali Sprow, Christopher Steingass and Kendra Waldron.

Edgerton's scholar athletes were Brady Everetts, Ava Giesige, Jackson Flower, Alivia Farnham, Caden Sinclair, Parker Elden, Kyli Hazelton, Ava Swank, Orlando Puente and Chloe Blakely.

Fairview honored Kenna Kauffman, Calvin Woodring, Elijah Arend, James Smith, Asiah Brubaker, Paul Speiser and Audrey Craft.

Hicksville's recipients included Addison Adams, Kennedy Adams, Michael Bleck, Jasmine Gillespie,

SPRING CONCERT!

At last... spring has come along! To celebrate, the **Antwerp Community Band** invites the West Bend News' readers to our **spring concert on Sunday, May 31, 2026, at 2:30 pm in the Auditoria at Antwerp Local Schools**. On the program: "Billy Joel in Concert," a medley of favorites in "Symphonic Gershwin," "Black Canyon of the Gunnison," and more. As always, there is no charge for admission. We look forward to seeing you at the concert!

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ANTWERP OPENS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT WITH OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION BEFORE FALLING IN FINALS



Antwerp senior Raelynne Zuber hits the ball through the infield and earning herself second base while also getting an RBI when Alia Clem runs home. More pictures at engaging-exposures.com

The Antwerp Archers opened postseason play with an offensive explosion before seeing their tournament run come to an end in the OHSAA Division VII Softball Sectionals.

In the sectional opener on May 15 at Antwerp, the Archers rolled past Kalida 27-5 behind a 22-hit attack. Antwerp scored four runs in the first inning before erupting for 11 runs in both the second and third innings to put the game away early.

Antwerp was led at the plate by Alia Clem, who finished with two singles, a double, a home run, four runs scored, and five RBI. Allison Sproles added two singles and a double while scoring four times and driving in three runs. Maddilan Doster contributed two doubles, three runs, and three RBI, while Kara Pierce collected three singles, scored three runs, and drove in four.

Additional offensive support came from Raelynne Zuber with two singles and three runs scored, Madison McCoy with two singles and three RBI, Hailey Clem with two singles and two RBI, Gabi Snyder with two singles and an RBI, and Haydyn Lengacher with three RBI. Cate Rohrs also homered for the Archers.

Alia Clem earned the win in the circle, pitching all five

innings while striking out eight. Although Kalida collected six hits, only one of its five runs was earned due to defensive miscues. Sophie Vorst led Kalida with three singles, while Enna Meyers added a single and triple.

Antwerp advanced to the sectional finals on May 20 at Defiance but ran into a powerful Ayersville Pilots squad that claimed a 15-0 victory.

Ayersville broke the game open immediately with nine runs in the first inning and never looked back. The Pilots added three runs in the third and three more in the fourth while holding Antwerp hitless throughout the contest.

Kendra Waldron dominated in the circle for Ayersville, striking out 13 batters over five innings while allowing no hits or walks. Waldron also starred offensively with a single, home run, three runs scored, and four RBI.

Makayla Laker-Sierra added two singles, three runs, and two RBI for Ayersville, while Aerial Brown doubled and drove in a run. Annalee Weisgerber and Aubree Limber each collected two hits in the victory.

Despite the sectional final loss, Antwerp finished the postseason with a sectional opening win and another strong offensive performance to cap its tournament appearance.

were Hunter Harwell, Jackson Griffith, Jack Schweller, Colten Hunt, Grady Barton, Damien Iliff, Abigail Panches and Izaac Coutts.

Tinora recognized Parker Hancock, Allan Burchfield,

Paige Gamby, Christina Meyer, Logan Coy, Liam McMaster, Ryan Steingass, Dryden White, Abram Jimenez, Brennan Gentit, Craig Hoffmann, Madelyn Lee, Miren Zubieta—Irisarri, Erica Westrick, Cailyn March and Dani Buchman.

Wayne Trace honorees included Clay Stoller, Caitlyn Mead, Riley Manz, Lucas Morehead, Emma Stouffer and Deklyn Schweinsberg.

PAULDING CLAIMS DIV V SECTIONAL TITLE WITH WIN OVER SWANTON

The Paulding Panthers captured the OHSAA Division V Softball Sectional championship on May 20 with a 9-4 victory over Swanton Bulldogs at Napoleon.

Paulding jumped out early, scoring one run in the first inning before adding two more in both the second and third innings to build a 5-3 lead. The Panthers then broke the game open with four runs in the sixth inning on their way to the sectional finals victory.

Delaney Johanns provided one of the biggest hits of the night for Paulding with a home run and two RBI. Madison Clark added a single, two runs scored, and two RBI, while Mariah Klopfenstein contributed a single and two RBI.

Cadence Schwab doubled and drove in a run for the Panthers, Gracie Leal added a double and scored, and Taylor Hogans chipped in a single and two runs scored. Luci Martinez also crossed the plate in the victory.

Tia Mendez earned the complete-game win in the circle for Paulding, allowing four runs, three earned, on 10 hits while striking out three and walking four over seven innings.

Swanton was led offensively by Lacey Shinaver with three singles. Carli LaGrange added a single and a home run with two RBI, while Payton Glonek collected a single, double, and two RBI. Cara Ludlow doubled and scored, and Jordyn Ramirez also scored a run for the Bulldogs.

After the game, Paulding coach Clark praised the team effort.

“Our girls played a great game tonight offensively and defensively,” Clark said. “So proud of all of them for picking each other up and playing hard as a team!”

GMC TRACK RESULTS

ANTWERP:
GIRLS 1st Place finishers:
Mia Stoye – Long Jump, 200M Dash, and 300M Hurdles

Reese Durbin – 1600M Run, GMC Female Runner of the Year

4x800M Relay – Leigha Doster, Gianna Laker, Reese Durbin, Emily Laker

4x100M Relay – Amelia Graham, Kora Zuber, Emily Laker, Reese Franklin

BOYS 1st Place finishers:
Braxton Peters – Pole Vault
WAYNE TRACE:

GIRLS 1st Place finishers:
Caroline Winans - Pole Vault, GMC Meet and School Record Pole Vault

4x400M Relay – Caren Winans, Caroline Winans, Kenzie Ogle, Lilly Shepherd

BOYS 1st Place finishers:
Corbin Varner – 100M Dash

Eli Treece – 200M Dash, 400M Dash, Boys Running MVP

4x200M Relay – Eli Treece, Eli Johnson, Corbin Varner, Reece Olwin

4x400M Relay – Reece Morehead, Reece Olwin, Corbin Varner, Eli Treece

PAULDING:

GIRLS 1st Place finishers:
Kayleigh Dunham – 100M Hurdles, High Jump

BOYS 1st Place finishers:
4x100M Relay – Bolu Omonayin, Gannon Parrett, Landon Grinnell, Emmet Barnes

GMC ANNOUNCES 2026 ALL-CONFERENCE TRACK AND FIELD HONORS

The Green Meadows Conference has announced its 2026 All-Conference Track and Field selections, recognizing standout athletes from across the league for their performances this season.

On the boys side, Eli Treece of Wayne Trace Raiders was named Track Event Performer of the Year, while JT Zolman of Tinora Rams earned Field Event Performer of the Year honors.

Boys First Team selections included Ty Leppelmeier and Caden Sinclair of Edgerton; Braxton Peters of Antwerp; Corbin Varner, Eli Treece, Eli Johnson, Reece Olwin, and Reece Morehead of Wayne

Trace; JT Zolman, Logan Coy, Nolan Rittenhouse, Graham Hammon, and Gavin Rittenhouse of Tinora; Eli Doster, Graham Schlachter, Tucker Spro, and Donevin Hench of Ayersville; and Malaki Neilson of Fairview.

Second Team boys honors went to athletes from Antwerp, Paulding, Ayersville, Wayne Trace, Hicksville, Tinora, and Fairview, including Ben Meuleman and Corbin Sargent of Antwerp, Gannon Parrett, Parker Egnor, Jack Schweller, Bolu Omonayin, Emmet Barnes, and Landon Grinnell of Paulding, along with Cross Zeedyk, Boston Tribble, Alex Franklin, and Jonah Laker of Hicksville.

Honorable Mention recognition on the boys side included Keegan Gray-Wychoff and Corbin Sargent of Antwerp, Achilles Mead and Max Daeger of Paulding, Reece Olwin of Wayne Trace, Josh Bishop and Noah Meyer of Tinora, and several athletes from Hicksville, Ayersville, and Edgerton.

For the girls, Reese Durbin of Antwerp Archers was named Track Event Performer of the Year, while Katilyn Burke earned Field Event Performer of the Year honors.

Girls First Team selections featured strong representation

from Antwerp, including Mia Stoye, Reese Durbin, Emily Laker, Kora Zuber, Amelia Graham, Gianna Laker, and Leigha Doster. Other First Team selections included Edreanne Peck and Leviah Hull of Fairview, Caroline and Caren Winans along with Kenzie Ogle and Lilly Shepherd of Wayne Trace, India Okuley of Tinora, and Brooklyn Michel, Gretchen Schlachter, Jazlyn Sheets, and Peyton Messer of Ayersville.

Girls Second Team honors included Allyssa Coble, Gretchen Schlachter, Brooklyn Michel, Jazlyn Sheets, and Kyndall Youngker of Ayersville; Mia Stoye, Reese Durbin, and Amelia Graham of Antwerp; Caroline and Caren Winans, Kenzie Ogle, and Lilly Shepherd of Wayne Trace; along with athletes from Paulding, Fairview, Edgerton, Tinora, and Hicksville.

Girls Honorable Mention recognition included Grace Flory of Ayersville, Cheyenne Myers of Tinora, Gianna Laker and Amelia Graham of Antwerp, Gabby Gurney, Peyton Sennebogen, Nicole Gerstchutz, and Miley Jacobs of Wayne Trace, along with athletes from Edgerton, Fairview, Hicksville, and Paulding.

Free Friday

Come enjoy the **PAULDING COUNTY FAIR** on Friday, June 12th and enjoy:

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sponsored by *Baughman Tile*

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Redeem at Fiske French Fry Stand near the Grandstand

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 *No purchase necessary, Limit one per person Valid June 12, 2026 - Photocopies not valid

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THE LEFT TURN



Brady Bacon wins at Eldora Photo credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

Limaland Motor sports Park opened their 2026 featuring the Great Lakes Super Sprints in the 27th Annual Run for The Rabbit, paying the winner \$5,000.00. In his 7th career start Mason Hannagan found himself in Victory Lane after working his car around veteran drivers. Rounding out the top 5, John Ivy, Kalib Henry, Corbin Gurley and Zane DeVault. Todd Sherman won the Thunder Stock Feature followed by Jordan Conover who set fast time 14.994, Tony Anderson, Zach Rush and Dan Wooten. In UMP Modifieds, Dillon Nusbbaum set fast time with a 13.993 and won the feature. Behind the winner Tony Anderson 2nd, Dustin Moore 3rd, Jeff Koz 4th and Shane O'Connor 5th.

On Friday, May 15th Eldora Speedway hosted night #1 of Let's Race Two featuring the USAC Non-Winged 410 Sprints and the World of Outlaw Winged 410 Sprints. On Friday in the USAC Sprint Feature Kyle Cummins from Princeton Indiana had a big pay day parking his car in Victory Lane. He started the feature inside row 2. Brady Bacon worked his way up from 7th to 2nd. Rounding out the top 5 Justin Grant 3rd, Briggs Danner who started on the pole came in 4th and Chase Stockton 5th. In the World of Outlaw In, Tony Stewart Racing driver Rico Abreu started 7th and worked through cars and found the

checked flag. Michael Kofoid, Giovanni Scelzi, Aaron Reutzel and Logan Schuchart rounded out the top 5.

Saturday, May 16th was the final night of let's Race Two at Eldora. For the World of Outlaw Feature both drivers that started on the 2nd row moved up to finish 1st and 2nd. Logan Schuchart started P3 and was first to Victory Lane followed by Rico who started P4. Brady Bacon, Emerson Axson, and Wooster Ohio's Sheldon Haudenschild were your top 5 finishers in the WoO Sprints. For the USAC Feature, Brady Bacon led wire to wire, followed by Kyle Cummins, Briggs Danner, Steven Snyder Jr. and Mitchel Moles.

On Saturday, Oakshade Raceway in Wauseon opened for their 2026 season after a few weeks of bad weather. The DIRTcar UMP Super Late Model feature highlighted a great opening night of racing. 23 Late Models started the feature with Dan Wallace starting on the pole and had the early lead. On the tenth lap, the leaders caught up to the slower cars making the field bunch up and a couple of mishaps brought out the caution flags. Your new leader was the 2025 track champion Devin Shiels, and he was able to fend off the 2020 champion, Steve Kester, in the closing laps to pick up the opening night win. Casey Noonan, Jamie Grochowoski and Dan Wallace were your top 5. Your Late Model Sportsman Feature was won by Dylan Jessen

on the last lap, followed by Defiance driver Josh Robertson, John Gamber, Dylan Hough and Chris Williams. Adam Lantz started 2nd in the Dominator Stock Feature but parked his car in Victory Lane after the Feature. He was followed by Mason Luttrell, RJ Cornett, Jeff Foks Jr., and Scott Hammer. In the Sport Compacts 1st Ken Wells, James Stamper, Ryan Okuley, Gage Rushlow and Wesley Belkofor.

Saturday the Ultimate Heart of America Super Late Model Series invaded Montpelier Speedway Indiana. Your podium was Rusty Schlenk, Steve Peeden and

Dona Marcoullier. Other Feature winners UMP Modifieds Dalton Smith, and Super Stocks Super Stocks Tony Anderson. Until next week. Keep your wheels down. Ron Out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

LADY PANTHERS PICK UP ROAD WIN AT LINCOLNVIEW

Paulding jumped out early and held off Lincolnview late for a 4-2 softball victory on May 16 at Lincolnview.

The Lady Panthers scored three runs in the top of the first inning to take control before adding an insurance run in the sixth. Lincolnview answered with one run in the first and one in the seventh, but Paulding pitcher Tia Mendez limited the Lancers to three hits in the complete-game win.

Mendez went seven innings, allowing two earned runs on three hits while striking out three and walking four. Lainey Spear took the loss for Lincolnview, allowing five hits and four runs, only one earned, with four walks.

At the plate for Paulding, Civil Pumphrey doubled and scored, while Mariah Klopfenstein tripled and drove in a run. Delaney Johanns singled and knocked in two runs, Cadence Schwab singled and scored, Gracie Leal added a single, and Madison Clark and Mendez each scored.

For Lincolnview, Spear provided the big hit with a home run and two RBIs. Emme Stevens singled and scored, while Bella Hire added a single.

WAYNE TRACE HOLDS OFF LATE VAN WERT RALLY FOR 9-6 VICTORY

Wayne Trace built an early lead and withstood a late comeback attempt to defeat Van Wert 9-6 in baseball action on May 15 at Van Wert.

The Raiders plated three runs in the opening inning and added three more in the third to take command. Wayne Trace later added single runs in the sixth and two more in the seventh before Van Wert rallied for four runs in the bottom of the final inning.

Carter Clemens earned the win on the mound for Wayne Trace, pitching six innings while allowing two earned runs on five hits with five strikeouts and three walks. Tanner Laukhuf worked the seventh inning for the Raiders.

Brayson Davis suffered the loss for Van Wert. Wyatt Scott and Blade Lowe also saw time on the mound for the Cougars.

Wayne Trace collected 12 hits in the victory. Jack Schoenauer led the Raiders with two singles, a double, and three

RBIs. Carter Clemens helped his own cause with a single, three runs scored, and two RBIs. Brody Rosswurm added two singles and an RBI, while Blake Noggle doubled, scored, and drove in a run. Carter Baumle recorded two singles, Tanner Laukhuf singled and scored, Jonathan Sterrett singled and scored, Ryan Cluts added a single, and Caden Sinn and Jensen Beining each crossed the plate.

Van Wert finished with eight hits. Trevor Halker had two singles and scored twice, while Easton Putman singled, doubled, scored, and drove in a run. Wyatt Scott contributed a single, double, one run scored, and two RBIs. Griffin McCracken singled and drove in a run, Jace Huebner singled, Zach Scott added an RBI, and Camdyn Werts and Brayson Davis each scored a run

PAULDING RALLIES PAST PARKWAY IN WILD FINISH

Paulding scored six runs in the bottom of the seventh inning to complete a dramatic comeback and defeat Parkway 9-8 on May 15 at Paulding.

Trailing 8-3 entering the final inning, the Panthers erupted offensively to cap the rally and secure the walk-off victory. Paulding finished with 10 hits while overcoming five defensive errors.

Zachary Barton pitched the first six innings for Paulding, allowing just two earned runs while striking out seven. Tyler Goyings earned the win with a scoreless inning of relief.

Jacoby Triplett took the loss for Parkway. Isaac Beveridge and Cooper Tangeman also pitched for the Panthers.

Grady Arend led Paulding offensively with three singles, a run scored, and two RBIs. Stroker Etter added two singles and drove in three runs, while Nick Baughman singled, scored, and had an RBI. Colten Hunt singled, scored, and drove in a run, Easton Lehman singled, scored twice, and had an RBI, and Wes Grindstaff singled, scored, and drove in a run. Jackson Griffith also singled and scored, while Ridge Hunt scored twice.

Parkway collected 11 hits in the game. Kolt Harner had two singles, a double, two runs scored, and an RBI, while Rowen Knapke recorded three singles, a run, and two RBIs. Cohen Korte tripled, scored, and drove in a run, Perry Schwieterman singled and had two RBIs, and Cooper Tangeman singled, scored, and drove in a run. Carson Kirby and Jack Yoder each singled and scored, and Jack Ross also scored for Parkway.

PANTHERS BLANK EDON BEHIND STRONG PITCHING

Paulding received dominant pitching performances from Colten Hunt and Zachary Barton in a 9-0 baseball victory over Edon on May 19 at Edon.

The Panthers scored in four different innings, including a five-run third inning, while holding Edon to just one hit and committing no errors defensively.

Hunt earned the win after pitching five innings, allowing one hit while striking out eight and walking three. Barton closed out the game with two hitless innings and four strikeouts.

Nick Baughman paced the Paulding offense with two

NSSC NAMED BRONZE SPONSOR FOR DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured (L to R) Anne Murray - DAF Gala committee member and Jim Drewes - Vice President of Workforce Development at NSSC.

The Defiance Area Foundation is pleased to announce Northwest State Community College (NSSC) as a Bronze Sponsor for the 2026 Gala with a \$2,000 sponsorship.

The Foundation's annual Gala, themed Bow Ties & Boas, will take place on October 3, 2026, and supports the Defiance County Community Fund. This unrestricted fund helps address emerging needs throughout the county by supporting nonprofit organiza-

tions, schools, community programs, and local initiatives.

The Defiance Area Foundation is grateful for Northwest State Community College's partnership and commitment to strengthening communities across the region.

To learn more about the Gala or sponsorship opportunities, visit <https://defianceareafoundation.org/gala>.

FRIENDS OF INDEPENDENCE DAM STATE PARK RECEIVES \$5,000 GRANT



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Deb Mannon Volunteer - Friends of Independence Dam State Park VP, Karen Beckman - Friends of Independence Dam State Park President and Dan Michel - DAF Board President.

Congratulations to the Friends of Independence Dam State Park for receiving a \$5,000 grant during the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) spring grant cycle. This grant was gifted from the Capital Projects Fund, held under the

DAF umbrella. The grant will be put towards the continued fundraising of the new park pavilion, as well as for the upcoming AM250- Ohio Walk Through History Event taking place on August 8th and 9th.

doubles and three RBIs. Zachary Barton added two singles, scored once, and drove in two runs, while Stroker Etter doubled, scored, and

had two RBIs. Ridge Hunt doubled and scored twice, Grady Arend singled and scored twice, and Easton Lehman added two singles

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and a run scored. Grady Barton and Jackson Griffith also scored for the Panthers.

Korbin Olds accounted for Edon's lone hit with a single.

STRYKER EDGES ANTWERP IN EXTRA-INNING SECTIONAL BATTLE

Stryker scored the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth inning and held on for a 3-2 victory over Antwerp in the OHSAA Division VII Baseball Sectional Opener on May 20 at Antwerp High School.

The Panthers battled back to tie the game in the sixth inning before the Panthers and Panthers traded scoreless frames into extras. Stryker eventually pushed across the winning run in the eighth to advance.

Bradley Williams earned the complete-game victory for Stryker, striking out 11 while allowing five hits and two earned runs over eight innings.

C.J. Eaton took the loss for Antwerp after turning in a strong outing with eight strikeouts over 6-2/3 innings while allowing just two hits

and two earned runs. Luke Parrett pitched 1-1/3 innings in relief, striking out three.

Antwerp collected six hits in the contest. Riley Smith led the offense with two doubles and a run scored, while Michael Rohrs also doubled. Lucas Sproles singled and drove in a run, and C.J. Eaton and Jason McKay each added singles. Luke Parrett also scored for the Archers.

Stryker managed just two hits but capitalized on key opportunities. William Donovan and Chandler Lloyd each singled, with Lloyd scoring a run. Bradley Williams and Logan Emmons also scored, while Walker Atkinson and Dylan Rivas each recorded an RBI.

2026 GMC ALL-CONFERENCE SOFTBALL SELECTIONS

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

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Kendra Waldron, 12th Grade, Ayersville High School

FIRST TEAM

Kendra Waldron (12) Ayersville; Mariah Klopfenstein

(11) Paulding; Sammy Mavis (11) Fairview; Tia Mendez (12) Paulding; Madison Spangler (11) Tinora; Kennedy Adams (12) Hicksville; Raegan McGarvey (12) Wayne Trace; Olivia Wallace (12) Edgerton; Danni Coble (10) Ayersville; Aerial Brown (12) Ayersville

SECOND TEAM

Evy McAlexander (12) Hicksville; Alia Clem (10) Antwerp; Addyson LaBounty (10) Wayne Trace; McKenna Baird (11) Hicksville; Ayden King (9) Edgerton; Alivia Farnham (12) Edgerton; Paige Gamby (12) Tinora; Zoe Billings (11) Tinora; Madison Clark (9) Paulding; Samantha Coolman (11) Fairview

HONORABLE MENTION

Raelyne Zuber (12) Antwerp; Annalee Wiesgerber (11) Ayersville; Addyson King (9) Edgerton; Grace Poper (10) Fairview; McKenna Rice (12) Hicksville; Civil Pumphrey (10) Paulding; Sam Williams (12) Wayne Trace; Allison Sproles (11) Antwerp; Aubree Limber (11) Ayersville; Cara Schroeder (11) Edgerton; Lilly Warner (10) Edgerton; Cadence Schwab (11) Paulding; Savannah Schroeder (10) Tinora; Alicia Bahena (12) Wayne Trace; Makayla Laker-Sierra (12) Ayersville; Ava Swank (12) Edgerton; Rashele Hoffman (12) Fairview; Asia Brubaker (12) Fairview; Luciana Martinez (9) Paulding; Christina Meyer (12) Tinora

ARCHAEOLOGIST ERIC HUBBARD TO PRESENT AT DPL

Archaeologist Eric Hubbard has traveled the world unearthing stories one brush

stroke at a time, and he'll return to his hometown to share some of his most interesting finds and experiences during a special program June 16 from 6-7:30 p.m. at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St.

This special free event is offered as part of Defiance Public Library System's 2026 "Unearth a Story" Summer Reading Challenge slate of programming.

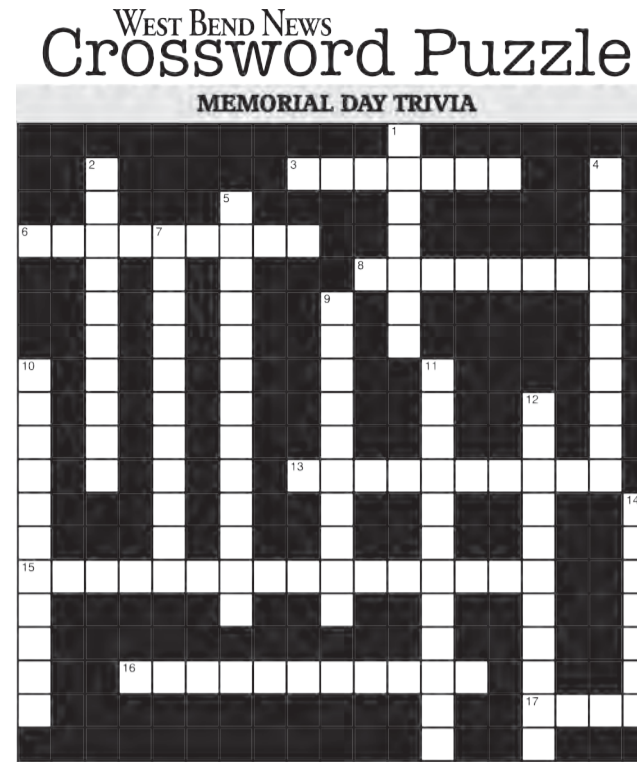
The program is geared to adults, and no registration is needed. For more information, contact the library at 419-782-1456.

SHERWOOD LIBRARY OFFERING FREE SUMMER LUNCHEES FOR KIDS

The Sherwood Branch Library will once again help keep area children fed this summer by offering free lunches Monday through Thursday from June 1 through July 30. Lunches will be served from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m., with most days also featuring programs immediately following at the library.

The free summer lunch program is available to all children ages 0-18, as well as individuals ages 19-21 with a disability. Lunch pickup locations include the Sherwood Branch Library, Ney Community Park, and Farmer Center Church. Organizers also thanked community sponsors for helping make the program possible.

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



- Across**
- The Air Force often honors Memorial Day with military aircraft passes over ceremonies.
 - Position of the American flag until noon on Memorial Day.
 - Conflict that inspired the creation of the holiday.
 - Union general who called for a national day of remembrance.
 - Relatives specially honored during military observances.
 - Military team assigned to ceremonial volleys.
 - Solemn military tune associated with funerals and remembrance played with a bugle.
- Down**
- Flowers associated with honoring fallen soldiers.
 - Military unit that presents the American flag during ceremonies.
 - South Carolina city linked to an early Memorial Day tribute held by freed slaves.
 - Washington, D.C. site honoring sea service members.
 - The Navy and Coast Guard are often referred to collectively by this term during observances.
 - Memorial Day is observed on this Monday in May.
 - Army unit responsible for placing flags at Arlington gravesites.
 - The Army participates in this solemn act at national cemeteries.
 - Traditional military tribute performed during memorial services.
 - Traditionally placed on graves to honor the fallen.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that on 9 June 2026, commencing at 1:00 p.m. and at 5:00 p.m., the Board of Paulding County Commissioners, Paulding County Administration Building, 451 McDonald Pike Suite E, Paulding, Ohio 45879, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council ("NOPEC"), on behalf of Paulding County, Ohio, will hold public hearings with respect to the Plan of Operation and Governance for the aggregation of competitive retail electricity (the "Aggregation Program"), as previously authorized by such members pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 4929.26. The Aggregation Program will apply automatically to all eligible customers of retail electricity within certain unincorporated areas of Paulding County participating in the County's electricity program, and to any township in Paulding County that subsequently joins the Paulding County program, except for those who elect to opt-out. Customers may opt-out without charge during a designated opt-out period prior to initiation of service under the Aggregation Program and approximately every two (2) years thereafter. NOPEC seeks to provide competitive electricity service for consumers by selecting a supplier through a negotiation process and leveraging the combined resources and buying power of member communities in NOPEC. The Plan of Operation and Governance addresses the following topics regarding the Aggregation Program: (1) goals, operations and funding; (2) consumer participation, including terms of opting out; (3) customer care; (4) organizational structure and management of NOPEC; and (5) the steps toward establishing the Aggregation Program.

Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council

NOTICE OF ON-LINE SALE UNDER JUDGMENT OF DISCLOSURE OF LIENS FOR DELINQUENT LAND TAXES

Revised Code, Section 5721.19.1

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO

In the Matter of Foreclosure of Liens for delinquent land taxes:
LOU ANN WANNEMACHER, TREASURER PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO, Plaintiff,
vs.
DAVID R. SCOTT, SR., ET AL., Defendants,
Case No. CI 26 032

Whereas, judgment has been rendered against certain parcels of real property for taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges as follows:
100 West Jackson Street, Grover Hill
Parcel Number: 26-08S-013-00; 26-08S-014-00; 26-08S-012-00; and, 26-08S-011-00

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

The opening bid is Ninety-one Hundred Seventy-five and 84/100 (\$9,175.84) Dollars, sufficient to cover pro-rated taxes, assessments, penalties, costs and charges of this suit.

Whereas, said judgment orders such real property to be sold by the undersigned to satisfy the total amount of said judgment;

Now, therefore, public notice is hereby given that I, Jason K. Landers, Sheriff, Paulding County, Ohio, will sell such real property at public auction to the highest bidder of an amount sufficient to satisfy the judgment against each parcel on Thursday, June 25, 2026 by on-line bidding at:

(RealAuction) <https://paulding.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>. **Registration and a Ten and No/100 (\$10.00) deposit must be completed at least one week before the date of the sale.**

If this parcel does not receive a sufficient bid, it shall be offered for sale on-line, under the same terms and conditions of the first sale on July 2, 2026 for the same minimum bid.

Bidding begins on scheduled Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. An auction will be conducted for each individual property/court case. After a property is sold, the next scheduled sale will begin.

The purchaser will be required to pay recording costs and transfer fee with the balance of the purchase price after the sale has been confirmed.

Purchaser(s) 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ALL SUCH REAL PROPERTY TO BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION MAY BE SUBJECT TO A FEDERAL TAX LIEN THAT MAY NOT BE EXTINGUISHED BY THE SALE, AND PURCHASERS OF ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY ARE URGED TO SEARCH THE FEDERAL TAX LIEN INDEX THAT IS KEPT BY THE COUNTY RECORDER TO DETERMINE IF NOTICE OF A FEDERAL TAX LIEN HAS BEEN FILED WITH RESPECT TO ANY SUCH REAL PROPERTY.

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.pauldingohsheriff.com
Matthew A. Miller, Prosecuting Attorney

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

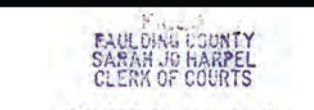
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
TIFFANY M SANCHEZ RUIZ, PLAINTIFF
vs.
ALFREDO SANCHEZ RUIZ
LKA: UNKNOWN DEFENDANT,

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 Sancez Ruiz, Plaintiff vs. Alfredo Sanchez Ruiz, Defendant.

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



2026 APR 21 PM 3:47

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

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

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

Sarah Jo Harpel
Clerk

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

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

was dismissed.
Richard L. Hankinson of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of improper backing. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Nicholas J. Estel of Napoleon, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$95.26 and ordered to pay \$107.74 in court costs. Special conditions in-

clude payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.
Carrie M. Seibert of Grover Hill, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failure to restrain a dog. She was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$125 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.
Mark A. Mabis of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Shannon S. McClure of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of failing to stop for a school bus. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.
Phillip J. Tyckoski of Rochester Hills, Michigan, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving while texting. Tyckoski was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Ronald L. Craig of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a prohibited turn violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Robert J. Wollam of Oakwood, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Biruk F. Legesse of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.
Reginald S. Douglas of Detroit, Michigan, was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Maddox A. Treece of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Alicia R. Peters of Van Wert, Ohio, was convicted of a left of center violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Santiago W. Rojas of Phillipsburg, New Jersey, was convicted of a no thru trucks violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Lynsey L. Pease of Haviland, Ohio, was convicted of a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Lisa M. Barrant of Haviland, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of operating a vehicle without a valid operator's license. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.
Brysin L. Swalley of Bryan, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.
Caleb N. Azbill of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.
Ralph L. Grennay Jr. of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.
James E. Mihm of Rockford, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of speeding. He was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.
Stacy L. Boyd of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a seat belt violation while driving. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

WT GROVER HILL STUDENT OF THE MONTH



Pictured are May Students of the Month for Grover Hill elementary: Front Row, left to right: Tessa Miller, Bently Mihalaki, Nathaniel Andrist, Tatum Treece, Maxwell Bennett and Max Lash. Back Row: Bryn Hershberger, Lane Noffsinger, Lillian Knuth, Julian Nieto, Ava Beining, Mason Evans and Bruno Rodrigues-Lopez. Not Present: Holden Norling, Torren Ackerman, Ryker Angel and Sa'yra Washington

ANOTHER GORRELL BROS AUCTION

LARGE ESTATE • ANTIQUES • COLLECTIBLES • TOOLS • TRACTORS • EQUIPMENT AUCTION

AUCTION LOCATION: 24438 Road 86 Oakwood, Ohio 45873
 Go East of Oakwood on State Route 613 to Road 211, then South on Road 211 to Auction Site... Watch for Auction Signs!

Saturday, MAY 30, 2026 @ 10AM

24438 Road 86, Oakwood, Ohio 45873

Tractors, Mowers & Outdoor Equipment... Allis Chalmers Tractor (Possibly C or CA; many newer parts; needs tires)... International 140 Gas Tractor with Woods L06 Mower Deck... Ferris Zero Turn Lawn Mower, 48" Deck, 23 HP Briggs & Stratton... Bicycle with Gas Engine... Murray Bicycle... Weed Eater... Gas Cans... etc...

Shop Tools & Garage Equipment... Devilbiss 6.5 HP, 60-Gallon Air Compressor (220V)... Sanborn Air Compressor... Job Smart 4-Gallon Air Compressor... DuraCraft Drill Press... Craftsman 9" Table Saw... Craftsman Electronic Band Saw... Chicago Electric Miter Saw on Stand... Kennedy & Waterloo Tool Boxes... Large Vise... Parts Washer... Exide Battery Charger... Floor Jacks & Bottle Neck Jacks... Grinding Wheel... Jigsaws... Creeper... Work Light...

Farm & Utility Items... Small Two-Wheel Trailer with Ramp... Corn Shelter... Hand Pump... 7' 6" Plow with Skids... Chicken Crate... Chicken Feeder... Toledo Scale on Cart (appears to work)... Yard Tools...

Antiques & Primitives... Grandfather Clock... Hutch... Table... Bench... School Desk... Crank Telephone... Milk Can... Dinner Bell... Boot Scraper... Crocks and Jugs... Brown Glass Jugs... Lanterns... Cast Iron Items...

Advertising & Petrolina... The-Line Gumball Machine on Stand with Key... Additional Gumball Machines... Briggs & Stratton Sign and Miscellaneous Signs... Pepsi Wooden Flats... Pepsi Bottles with Carrier... Coke Bottles and Pop Bottles... Gulf Supreme Motor Oil Can... Pennzoil and Sohio Advertising Items...

Toys, Lunch Boxes & Collectibles... Large Collection of Vintage Lunch Boxes and Thermoses... Ronald McDonald Doll (1978, in box)... Steve Urkel Doll (works)... Fisher-Price Ferris Wheel... Big Boy Bank... Mickey Toys... Hot Wheels and Toy Trucks... Marx Toy Bulldozer and Car Hauler... Comic Books and Dr. Seuss Books... Baseball Cards... Emmitt Smith 23K Gold Card

Sporting Goods & Memorabilia... Air Rifles... Holsters... Ammunition Boxes (18+ to Bid)... Fishing Poles... Loaded Tackle Boxes... Scope... Knives... Belt Buckles... Lighters...

Household & Furniture... Jewelry Cabinet with Mirror... Corner Entertainment Stand... Samsung Over-the-Range Microwave... Exercise Equipment... Chairs... Lamps... Pictures... Mirrors... Decor

LIVE AUCTION ONLY...

Guns... Savage Model .110cal 223 Rem... Ithaca M-49, .22cal short or long... Ruger 10/22... Henry 22... Marlin Mod.25M .22cal, 22WMR with Deer Field Scope... Smith and Wesson SD-40 VE Hand Gun... Mossberg 20ga Combo Kit... RIA Meriva 12ga... Thompson/Center Muzzleloader, .50cal, Clean Barrel...

NOTE: Must be 21+ to bid. Buyer MUST pay additional \$30.00 for background checks. Background checks and gun pickup will be at Ace Hardware in Paulding, Ohio.

Misc... 2-3 Flatbed Wagons of Misc. Tools... Dressers... Nice Oak Furniture... etc etc etc

We will be selling in two rings day of auction, bring a friend! Lot of unique items. There's something for everyone!

AUCTION TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Auction goes live **Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 10:00 AM.**
- Payment accepted: **Cash, Good Check, Credit & Debit Cards.**
- Credit and debit cards are subject to a **4% convenience fee.**
- **No Buyer's Premium** for live, on-site bidders.
- **Online purchases** are subject to a **15% Buyer's Premium.**
- **ABSOLUTELY NO SHIPPING ON ANY LOT.**
- No invoices will be emailed.
- All items must be paid for and removed during designated pickup times.

INSPECTION DATES

- Tuesday, May 26 • 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Friday, May 29 • 1:00 PM – 6:00 PM
- Auction Day beginning at 8:00 AM
- All items are located at the auction site. Nothing is at the Gorrell Bros. office.

PICKUP TIMES

- Saturday, May 30 at the conclusion of the auction until 4:00 PM
- Monday, June 1 • 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

ABSOLUTELY NO SHIPPING
ALL ITEMS MUST BE PICKED UP IN OAKWOOD, OHIO
 INFORMATION OBTAINED ABOUT AUCTION ITEMS ARE OBTAINED BY A RELIABLE SOURCE BUT NOT GUARENTEED! ANY STATEMENTS MADE AUCTION DAY, TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER PRINTED MATERIAL

AUCTIONEERS: Kenneth D Thomas... Chris Aufrance... Zach Gorrell
 www.gorrellbrothers.com
 Office: (419) 399-4066
 Call Today To Reserve Your Auction Date!

PAULDING EX. VILLAGE SCHOOLS BOARD APPROVES HVAC UPGRADES, STAFF REDUCTIONS FOLLOWING LEVY FAILURE

The Paulding Exempted Village Schools Board of Education approved a series of financial, staffing, and facility measures during its May 19 meeting, including a major HVAC improvement project and additional staff reductions tied to ongoing financial challenges following the recent levy failure.

New Paulding High School Principal Hunter Bosch introduced himself to the board and community members during the meeting. Two residents also addressed the board, expressing concerns regarding the failed levy and resulting staff reductions.

Treasurer Mr. Thiel presented information outlining the financial impact of reductions made over the past three years, including the elimination of five teaching positions and one administrative position heading into the 2026-27 school year. He also reviewed projected annual debt payments associated with a 15-year lease-purchase agreement that will fund emergency HVAC repairs throughout the district.

Board members approved the HVAC lease-purchase agreement as well as a project agreement with Gardiner Service Company, LLC for HVAC controls replacement and upgrades to the high school boiler plant. The board also approved a \$104,990 insurance agreement with the School of Ohio Risk Sharing Authority (SORSA) for liability, fleet, and property coverage.

Among other business, the board approved the district's adoption of the NIST Cybersecurity Framework Version 2.0 in compliance with Ohio House Bill 96 and authorized the district to assume operation of the Paulding County Opportunity Center beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

The board approved several personnel changes, including a two-year administrative contract for Bosch as Paulding High School principal effective Aug. 1, 2026.

A reduction in force effective June 30, 2026, was also approved for one seventh grade math teacher, one eighth grade math teacher, and one Oakwood Elementary preschool teacher position. District officials noted the middle school math reductions will occur through attrition without layoffs. The preschool teaching contract of Briana Pack will be suspended effective Aug. 11,

WAYNE TRACE DISTRICT ART SHOW 2026



Wayne Trace held its annual District Art Show featuring the creative works of hundreds of talented students in grades K through 12. This year's Best in Show winners were Bryn Hershberger from Grover Hill Elementary, Saylor Denning from Payne Elementary, and Reece Morehead from Wayne Trace Junior/Senior High School.

Merit Award winners from Grover Hill Elementary included: Wattson Blume, Charlotte Miller, Bryson Duer, Kashton Sanchez, Raena Stoller, Emery Boyer, Mack Sinn, Kaylee Stoller, Delilah Myers, Tessa Stoller, Skyler Drummond, Clara Laukhuf, Collin Miller, Mia Marrufo, Jullian Nieto, Aizlee Ricker, Kinsley Sinn, Sloane Sinn, Aleyah Stoller, Marlie-Jane Clutter, Makenna Miller, Kollin Reichert, Sophia Rhodes-Varner, Mia Kamphaus, Jase Miller, Noellyn Ramey, and Jayde Sinn.

Merit Award winners from Payne Elementary included: Colton Linder, Adalynn Pierce, Emmett Litzenberg, Paisley Coutts, Spencer Reeves, Bentley Vance, Bennett Beaverson, Kaylynn Schwartz, Amelia Mawer, Monroe Taylor, Emersyn Showalter, Ethan Valdez, Norah Mawer, Aubree Phlipot, Dylaine Carr, Gabriel Dewaard, Romeo Gambler, Nash Sinn, Hannah Mawer, River Rittenhouse, Brynlee Stoller, Callen Stoller, and Annaleigh Walker.

Merit Award winners from Wayne Trace Jr/Sr High School included: Hunter Lyons, Jack Schoenauer, Caden Sinn, Kamara Halliwill, Emma Stouffer, Brooke Tigner, Aubree Miller, Zoey Schultz, Chloe McClure, Natalie Richie, Estrella Martinez-Sandoval, Boston Font, Kendall Folsom, Addison Sennebogen and Cobain Rittenhouse.

2026. The board accepted resignations from Amy Barnes, director of special education; Megan Byrne, Paulding preschool teacher; and Jacob Hutcheson, Paulding High School world history teacher.

Additional approvals included one-year teaching contracts for Suzanne Monnier as an intervention specialist and Sydney Kill as vocational agriculture teacher, revisions to Kyle Kramer's contract to continuing status, and numerous extracurricular and coaching contracts for the 2026-27 school year.

The board also approved the early graduation requests of Thomas Miner, Mylie Dipillo, Skyler Ruby, and Piper Ruby from the Class of 2027. Student travel requests approved included the PHS volleyball team trip to Wheelersburg July 27-30 and the Vo-Ag Environmentalthon trip to Steubenville June 1-3. Other routine approvals included April meeting minutes, April financial reports and bills, and student activity budgets for several student organizations.

Jerry Ehle
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SCHRADER
 Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.

NORTHWESTERN OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION, RETAINING EMPLOYEES, WINNING AWARDS



In the photo above showing the annual report is NOCAC employee Sheana Behringer, Health & Safety Manager with the Child Development Programs. Sheana has 29 years of service at NOCAC.

Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) recently released their 2025 annual report. The report highlights both the people who work for NOCAC and the programs provided in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams counties. From long term employee retention to recognition of programming for going above and beyond, 2025 was full of efforts that supported and strengthened communities.

"NOCAC's 2025 Annual Report highlights the valuable resources, collaborations, and support systems that allow us to create meaningful solutions that address the barriers associated with poverty and help individuals and families move toward greater self-sufficiency and stability.

This work would not be possible without our dynamic employees, whose compassion and dedication ensure that life-changing services and opportunities remain accessible to those we serve. In fact, 21% of NOCAC's workforce has

been with the agency for more than 15 years demonstrating the deep commitment and experience our team brings to strengthening communities across our region," Angie Franklin, Executive Director.

Program wise two of the great 2025 wins were both rooted in the Summer Food Program. Specifically, the Turnip the Beet! Award by the USDA for going above and beyond; and the Golden Gourd Award which is sponsored by the Farm to Summer Challenge. The Golden Gourd Award is part of the Ohio Proud efforts which involve several State of Ohio departments including the Department of Agriculture.

Equally valuable were all the other programming efforts throughout the year including those provided by NOCAC's Financial Opportunity Center, Head Start, Weatherization and Home Repair, the PATH Center, Housing Services, Publicly Funded Child Care, Health and Nutrition, and Emergency Assistance.

DEATRICK SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



This week, Kiwanis was pleased to welcome Susan Deatrack, Youth and recently appointed Adult Services Director at the Paulding County Carnegie Library, as a guest speaker. She was invited by Kiwanis member Corey Walker.

During her presentation, Deatrack highlighted her important role in the library system and shared information about the many summer programs currently underway, including the summer reading program, teen activities, a Fort Wayne Tin Caps opportunity, and special events celebrating America's 250th anniversary.

Deatrack also provided an update on the library's new annex, which is scheduled for

completion in November 2026. The annex will feature a meeting space for up to 100 people, suitable for gatherings or small events. Photographs of the upcoming facility were shared with attendees.

In addition, Deatrack announced a family movie night featuring Little Giants, scheduled for Saturday, September 26 at 5:00 pm.

For more information about the Paulding County Carnegie Library and upcoming events, visit mypccl.org.

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

Classified Ads

Sell it in the Classifieds!

- Classified ads are \$8.50 for 20 words or less and \$.15 for each additional word.
- Bold is \$1.00 additional.**
- Ph: (419) 258-2000 • Email: info@westbendnews.net
- P.O. Box 262, Antwerp, OH 45813
- Classifieds MUST be paid up front!!**

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

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

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

ONE DAY CHARTER BUS TRIP to Holmes County, Ohio, on Friday, July 17, 2026. Four stops including 2 wineries. Leave from Paulding at 6:30 a.m. Cost \$75. Call Ann Olwin, 419-769-5137.

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

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

DEADLINE FOR CLASSIFIEDS ADS IN WEST BEND NEWS IS FRIDAYS AT 12:00 NOON!

ODOT DISTRICT 1 ANNOUNCES TOP OPERATORS IN SKILLS COMPETITION



The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1 hosted its annual truck and loader roadeo in Lima today, putting their operator's skill, precision, and knowledge to the test. Fifty-four employees from across the nine-county district — Allen, Auglaize, Hancock, Hardin, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, and Wyandot — took part in a variety of skill-based challenges that tested their expertise in heavy equipment operation and commercial driving.

"This friendly competition is a great opportunity for our teams to connect while demonstrating their abilities in heavy equipment operation, precision driving, pre-trip inspections, and CDL regulations," said ODOT District 1 Highway Maintenance Administrator Rodney Nueveman. "We're proud to highlight their achievements and commitment to teamwork and continuous improvement."

Held annually since 1988, the roadeo is a statewide ODOT tradition. In August, the top performers from each of the 12 ODOT districts will go on to represent their district at the ODOT Director's Cup in Columbus.

Roado Results:
Top spots in the truck and loader categories are as follows:

- Truck competition:**
 - First place - Jan Ardner, facilities, with a score of 1,695 out of a possible 2,400.
 - Second place - Chris Lobsiger, Van Wert County

garage.

- Third place - A tie between Kyleigh Krupp, Hancock County garage, and Michael Kroeger, Van Wert County garage.

Loader competition:
• First place - Bryce Hoffman, Putnam County garage, with a score of 1,900 out of a possible 2,300.

Second place - Kolby Taylor, Wyandot County garage.

- Third place - Kevin LaBrun, Mercer County garage.

The top two winners in each category will represent District 1 at the Director's Cup Truck and Loader Roadeo. Ardner and Lobsiger will compete in the truck competition, while Hoffman and Taylor will participate in the loader competition. Krupp, Kroeger, and LaBrun earned spots as alternates.

The Mercer County maintenance garage was named team champion, taking home the traveling trophy (top two truck scores and top two loader scores) with a total score of 6,740.

Mentoring Future Operators

Last week, the local high school construction equipment technology students from Apollo Career Center, Lima, and Vantage Career Center, Van Wert, had the opportunity to operate ODOT equipment and navigate the roadeo course, gaining hands-on experience and insight into the skills required for a career in heavy equipment operation.

Paint-the-Plow Contest
In conjunction with the roadeo, 23 plows painted by local schools were on display. ODOT employees voted for their favorite entries, and the public can also participate in voting for a people's choice award on ODOT District 1's social media account. On Wednesday, May 13, a photo of each painted plow will be posted on Facebook: [Facebook.com/ODOTDistrict1](https://www.facebook.com/ODOTDistrict1)

Each reaction, comment, and share on the photo will count as a vote. Voting runs through May 20 until 3 p.m. Winners will be announced by the end of May.

caption: Top operators in ODOT District 1's annual truck and loader roadeo from left to right: Kevin LaBrun, Mercer County garage; Bryce Hoffman, Putnam County garage; Jan Ardner, facilities; Kolby Taylor, Wyandot County garage; Kyleigh Krupp, Hancock County garage, and Chris Lobsiger, Van Wert County garage (not shown, Michael Kroeger, Van Wert County garage). Ardner placed first in the truck competition while Hoffman placed first in the loader event.

PCED BOARD RECEIVES UPDATES ON JOBSOHIO PROGRAMS AND SELECTION SUMMIT PARTICIPATION

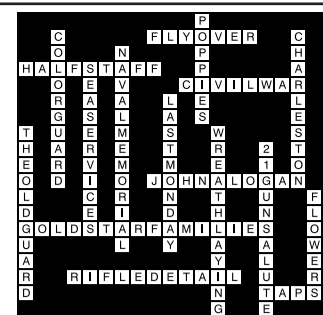
The Paulding County Economic Development (PCED) Board of Directors convened recently to hear key updates on regional business support programs, workforce initiatives, and ongoing organizational priorities.

Jessica Sattler of the Regional Growth Partnership (RGP) provided an in-depth presentation on two major JobsOhio programs designed to strengthen business expansion and talent attraction across the state.

Sattler highlighted the JobsOhio Small Business Grant, which offers up to \$50,000 in financial assistance to eligible Ohio companies seeking to grow their operations. She also outlined the JobsOhio Relocation Incentive, a statewide initiative

GET YOUR MESSAGE OUT IN THE WEST BEND NEWS.

NEWS ITEMS ARE ALWAYS FREE!!!



Crossword solution from page 9

Copsey also provided a report on his recent travel to Washington, D.C., where he and Office Manager Jessica Stechschulte represented rural Ohio at the SelectUSA Investment Summit. Copsey shared the excitement of showcasing Paulding County on an international stage, noting productive conversations with JobsOhio representatives from Columbus and abroad, as well as meetings with foreign delegations exploring investment opportunities in the United States.

Committee updates during the meeting included progress on ongoing marketing initiatives, along with recommendations from the Governance Committee regarding bylaw revisions and updated position titles to better reflect organizational responsibilities.

Board members also discussed current economic conditions within their respective sectors and communities. These conversations reinforced the Board's commitment to supporting business growth, strengthening workforce opportunities, and addressing the evolving needs of Paulding County's residents and employers.

HELP WANTED:

Innovative Assembly Services, LLC
109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813
Phone: 419-399-3886
Email: InnovativeAssemblySvc@outlook.com

Family owned business located in Antwerp, Ohio looking for general labor associates to do light manufacturing and assembly. Will provide on the job training. Hours are Monday-Friday from 5:00 am-1:30 pm. Competitive wages, vacation and personal leave after probationary period.

To apply contact us via phone or email

HAVE A WEDDING, ENGAGEMENT OR ANNIVERSARY?

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

(pictures are extra)

HELP WANTED

Physician Office Assistant
Performs a variety of tasks including scheduling and checking in patients. Opening: Full-Time
Location: Antwerp location

LPN/CMA (Specialty Clinic)
Requirements: Licensed LPN in the State of Ohio or Certified Medical Assistant
Opening: Full and Part Time Opening
Location: Paulding, OH

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PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

AMRIZE CELEBRATES 70 YEARS IN PAULDING COUNTY



On May 15, 2026, Amrize (formerly Holcim) hosted an Open House at their facility on Rd 176 in rural Paulding. At this all day event, facility administrators gave tours of the quarry, demonstrating the planning and operations of harvesting the minerals for cement products, etc. including a controlled explosion. The event began with a Ribbon Cutting to commemorate the 70 years of operations in Paulding County and officially announcing Amrize as the current company owners.

PAULDING COUNTY LAND BANK AWARDED BROWNFIELD FUNDING

PAULDING – The Paulding County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) announced this week that it has been awarded \$641,495 in brownfield grant funding from the Ohio Department of Development.

The funding will support initial environmental assessment work on three former commercial properties located in the Villages of Oakwood, Payne, and Paulding.

Working in partnership with Maumee Valley Planning Organization (MVPO) and environmental consultants Tetra Tech, the Land Bank will use the grant to

determine whether previous cleanup efforts at these sites were completed and to identify any remaining environmental concerns.

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey reported that the Land Bank has received a lease contract from Arvin Environmental, owners of the former Grizzly property. Copsey and County Prosecutor Matt Miller will review the document.

The proposed lease would allow the Land Bank to sublease approximately 13 acres of the site to a solar development group. In preparation, T&M Associates, representing Arvin Environmental, has cleared vegetation on the acreage and is currently measuring the depth of the soil cap covering the former facility and asbestos material. The cap must meet a minimum depth of 24 inches before solar installation can proceed.

Environmental consultant Matt Wagner of Tetra Tech noted that there are no new updates at this time regarding the Stokely property project.

MVPO representative Abby White presented the final list of 2026–2027 commercial and residential blight projects that will be submitted to the state. While funding may not be sufficient to complete all projects

this cycle, the full list will be submitted as the committee evaluates how far available resources can be stretched. White also reported no new progress on remaining 2025–2026 projects that are still open due to weather-related delays for contractors.

MVPO's Grady Vogel provided updates on the county's Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) housing rehabilitation program. Vogel discussed new concerns that have arisen at the 108 S. Main Street property in Cecil and sought committee guidance on next steps. Work also continues at the 621 Sugar Street residential project in Paulding.

The committee received a construction bid for a new WHO program home on Land Bank-owned property at 833 W. Jackson Street. In addition, the contractor expressed interest in purchasing the adjacent lot at 831 W. Jackson Street to build a second home. The committee supported the proposal, confirming that the WHO program home will need to in-

OAKWOOD ALUMNI HONORS 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



The Oakwood Alumni is proud to recognize this year's scholarship winners. These scholarships were made possible through funds received from the Oakwood Labor Day Alumni Banquet. Pictured (L to R) Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Dianne Cooper, Xander Schwab

clude a minimum one-car garage and be equipped with a stove, refrigerator, and dishwasher.

- Discussed a potential project in the Village of Broughton involving property owned by Norfolk Southern Railroad; further communication with the railroad is needed.
- Requested a template sublease agreement from

Midwest Energy Solutions for the proposed solar field development at the Arvin site.

- Reviewed upcoming Paulding County Sheriff Auction listings for potential WHO program property acquisitions.
- Reported a current Land Bank account balance of \$238,294.39.

HICKSVILLE HERITAGE DAYS
CELEBRATING OUR ROOTS

JUNE 4-5-6
HICKSVILLE • OHIO

Kid's Games

Live Music

WRESTLING
JUNE 5
7:00 @ HUBER

NIGHT of Lights
JUNE 5
6:00-9:00
FIELD OF FAITH
HICKSVILLE

FIREWORK Display
JUNE 6
@ DUSK
PARK
HICKSVILLE

Food Trucks & Vendors

Parade

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Dinner Party
JUNE 4
@ 6:00PM
HANDLE FACTORY

CRUISE IN Downtown
JUNE 6
10:00-2:00
HICKSVILLE

POKER Run
JUNE 6
3:30-6:00
AT THE PARK
HICKSVILLE

QUILT Show
JUNE 5 & 6
FRI 10-3 SAT 10-1
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METHODIST CHURCH

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AMERICA

250

SCHEDULES & UPDATES ON FACEBOOK

RECLAIMED LIVING

Annual Fundraising Dinner

JUNE 26th

Doors Open at 5:30pm
for music, mocktail bar & appetizers

Dinner Served at 6:30pm
*Meal by Chef Hallgren of
The Farmhouse in Saugatuck, Michigan*

Dessert Auction & Program to follow

Branch Christian Fellowship
109 North Main
Paulding, Ohio 45879

*200 tickets are available for \$30 each. They can be purchased by contacting
reclaimedliving613@gmail.com
or any of the Reclaimed Living board members before June 17th.*

\$270

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