

# The WEST BEND NEWS

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VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 22

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

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

## WAYNE TRACE HS BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STEAM CENTER EXPANSION



HAVILAND — Wayne Trace Local Schools officially broke ground May 27 on a major expansion project that will further enhance hands-on learning opportunities for students throughout the district.

The new STEAM Center expansion is being funded through a \$2.4 million grant from the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce Development and represents a significant investment in career-technical and project-based education at Wayne

Trace.

Designed by Munger Munger + Associates Architects, Inc. and constructed by Alexander & Bebout, Inc., the project will add a dedicated STEAM Center equipped with tools, machinery and production equipment, along with a new art-focused classroom and a STEM/engineering classroom designed specifically for hands-on career-tech learning experiences.

Construction is expected to begin in earnest during

early June, with completion anticipated before the end of 2026.

The expansion comes as Wayne Trace's STEAM and Career Technical Education programs continue to experience rapid growth. Students currently have opportunities to explore engineering, robotics, video production, entrepreneurship, print production, visual design and a variety of real-world projects completed in partnership with

(Continued on Page 2)

## PAULDING COUNTY ELECTED VILLAGE LEADERS DISCUSS AMERICA 250 PLANS

Village leaders from across Paulding County gathered Thursday evening for the quarterly Mayors and Village Council meeting, continuing their collaborative work to strengthen local communities and coordinate countywide initiatives.

County Engineer Scott Strahley opened the meeting on behalf of the Paulding Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Redeveloping Paulding (CoRP) committees, providing an update on plans for the upcoming Paulding County America 250 Celebration. The Ad-hoc America 250 Committee is working to expand this year's John Paulding Days into a two-day event scheduled for July 10-11.

Day one will continue to feature the traditional parade and fireworks, with new efforts to increase parade participation from county businesses and encourage children to decorate bicycles and ride in the parade under the America 250 theme. Strahley emphasized that the celebration is intended to be inclusive of all communities across the county.

Each village shared its preliminary America 250 plans, and a countywide schedule of events will be compiled and released to the public in the coming weeks. In conjunction with the celebration, America 250 commemorative banner signs will be available for purchase. Villages, residents, and businesses interested in se-

(Continued on Page 3)

## MCCLURE & REINHARD ELECTED TO AGCREDIT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Terry McClure  
Region 1

AgCredit, one of northern Ohio's largest lenders for farmers, agribusinesses, and rural homeowners, is pleased to announce the results of its recent Board of Directors election.

The successful candidates were Terry McClure of Grover Hill representing Region 1, consisting of Paulding, Putnam and Van Wert Counties; and Stephen Reinhard of Bucyrus representing Region 7, consisting of Crawford and Morrow Counties. McClure and Reinhard are both serving in their second terms, having been originally elected in 2023.

Both delegates bring a  
(Continued on Page 11)

## Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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

## Community Calendar

TUE & WED

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

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

June 4

- Hicksville Heritage Days - runs thru June 6th

June 6

- Talent Showcase @ VW Peony Festival

June 6-13

- Paulding County Fair! See article of events on Page 4!

June 9

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- Celebration for Veterans @ Sherwood VFW, 5:30p

June 10

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- PC Republican Women Meeting @ PC Fairgrounds, 6p

June 11

- Red Cross Blood Drive @ First Church of Christ, Hicksville, 1-6p
- Digital Navigation @ Van Wert Senior Center, 9a-3p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net

MEET LOCAL AUTHOR

# GEORGE FORREST

Writer ★ Former Judge ★ Attorney ★ Artist ★ Poet ★ WWII Veteran

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George Forrest is a lifelong resident of Paulding County. His first novel, Top of the Mountain, has been a lifelong dream—now finally in print.

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# HOLTSBERRY SPEAKS IN ANTWERP REMEMBERING SOLDIERS ON MEMORIAL DAY



Antwerp VFW Post 5087 hosted a Memorial Day observance on Monday, May 25th, with a small parade leaving from the VFW and marching to the Riverside Veterans Memorial. The ceremony was a moving display of presentations of wreaths by the VFW, Boy Scouts, and American Legion. The featured speaker was Paulding County Commissioner and local military historian, Mark Holtsberry. He emphasized the impor-

tance of remembrance, asking the crowd when they last thought about the names on the lists behind him on the memorial wall, or the infamous "Canal Street Five". Holtsberry's speech was well-received by all, including the last World War 2 veteran in the Paulding County area, George Forrest (pictured above with Mark). Following the program, light snacks were served at the VFW Hall.

## PARKVIEW SURGERYONE NAMED A 2026 BEST AMBULATORY SURGERY CENTER BY U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

Parkview SurgeryONE was recently named one of U.S. News and World Report's Best Ambulatory Surgery Centers for 2026.

The facility was one of only eight orthopedic ambulatory surgery centers (ASC) recognized in Indiana as top performers and one of only two located north of Indianapolis.

"Ambulatory surgery centers offer a convenient, cost-effective alternative to traditional hospitals for many procedures without compromising quality," said Dr. Chris Johnson, president of Ortho NorthEast. "At Parkview SurgeryONE, our surgeons provide fellowship-trained sub-specialized orthopedic care to more than 7,000 patients each year, including robotic-assisted knee replacement, navigated anterior hip replacement and minimally invasive spine surgery. With same-day discharging, most patients are recovering comfortably and safely at home within 24 hours. We are proud to be recognized by U.S. News & World Report for the quality and efficiency of care we deliver together."

U.S. News and World Report evaluated more than

4,400 surgery centers for successful avoidance of post-procedural complications and low rates of emergency room visits and unplanned hospitalizations using risk-adjusted metrics that account for patients' pre-existing conditions.

In Indiana, a total of 108 ASCs in four specialties - orthopedics, colonoscopy and endoscopy, ophthalmology and urology - were scored by U.S. News, with 20 earning recognition in the 2026 program. Nationally, only 21% of ASCs reviewed were recognized as "high performing" facilities.

Parkview has continued to invest in ASCs to provide a cost-saving alternative for patients needing routine outpatient surgery. Surgical procedures at ASCs generally cost less than those at an acute care hospital because of lower overhead costs, averaging about \$684 in patient savings per procedure.

Parkview previously entered a joint venture with physicians at the Lake George Surgery Center in Steuben County and opened a new orthopedic ASC in Warsaw near Parkview Kosciusko Hospital.

"When patients need orthopedic care, they will always receive the highest levels of quality and safety at Parkview," said Dr. Alan McGee, president, Parkview

Health Orthopedics. "We're committed to always continuing to find ways to increase access to care, improve patient experience and reduce cost for our patients."

For more information about the services and physicians available at Parkview SurgeryONE, visit [www.parkview.com/locations/parkview-surgeryone](http://www.parkview.com/locations/parkview-surgeryone).

## NORTHWEST STATE'S GAMING AND POP CULTURE CONVENTION 'GAME CON' TO RETURN IN JULY

Northwest State Community College is bringing back Game Con, "the premier pop culture convention," on Saturday, July 18th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The convention is run by Northwest State and NSCC Thunder, the college's official esports team. The event is free to attend, and all ages are welcome.

Game Con will feature many events and competitions, some returning and some new. They include a 100-player Super Smash Bros. Ultimate Tournament with a \$600 prize pool, a Cosplay Contest with a \$500 prize pool, a Pokémon Card Game Tournament Hosted by Checkmate Games with a Pokémon related prizes, and other open activities available to all attendees.

Some of the open activities scheduled for Game Con include:

- Artists, Vendors, and Authors
- Various Panels
- Speedrun Challenges Every Hour
- Open Console Play with Nintendo Switches, PlayStations, and Many More Consoles
- Virtual Reality (VR) Experiences
- Food Trucks, Open LEGO Build Stations, and More!

Some of the panels scheduled for Game Con include:

- Creating a Video Game in 1 Hour
- Dungeons & Dragons Character Workshop
- Comic vs. Novel Writing
- And Much More!

Additional information, including pre-registration links, photos, etc., is available at [GameCon.NorthwestState.edu](http://GameCon.NorthwestState.edu). Follow NSCC Thunder on social media at Instagram, [com/NSCCThunder](https://www.facebook.com/NSCCThunder) and Facebook.com/NSCCThunder for more information about vendors, events, and other Game Con news.

## LAWN CARE FOR THE HOMEOWNER

### Grubs

Official summer is getting closer (even though it hasn't felt like it quite yet) and one of the biggest problems that your lawn could face is grubs. In this article, I want to explain the types of grubs, their typical life cycle, and products that control them so you can have a healthy, grub-free lawn.

The typical "white grubs" you see in the lawn for our area are the larvae of Japanese beetles, May and June beetles, European chafers, or Turf-grass Ataenius beetles. The adult insects lay eggs in the lawn in late summer. The eggs hatch into white grubs, which tunnel underground and eat the roots of grass plants. Late summer and through fall is their most active period. The grubs will continue eating until cold

weather. The cold weather forces them deeper underground where they spend the winter. When spring arrives, the grubs come back up to the grass-root level. In spring, they will continue eating grass roots for a short period before pupating and emerging from the soil as adult beetles. Once they emerge as adults, their destructive life cycle starts again. Each beetle has its own particular life cycle, but they generally follow this pattern.

Most grub damage is done in the late summer and fall; however, the damage is usually not apparent until the following spring. In severe cases, so many of the grass roots are detached by the grubs that the lawn can be cut up and rolled back like a carpet, exposing the grubs and their destruction to the naked eye. Besides the rampant damage grubs can do on their own, they attract other animals. For instance, skunks see grubs as a viable food source and will dig up your turf to eat them.

By applying a grub control, you will help prevent lawn damage. There are several products on the market that help in the control of grubs. The most common control is Imidacloprid (Merit). Merit or Imidacloprid is a neurotoxin and kills by blocking the nervous system activity of the insect resulting in slow death by starving. To take effect, it is ingested or absorbed by the insect. Imidacloprid achieves upwards of 90% control of grubs. Although it is most effective at killing grubs, Imidacloprid also has some effect to kill off sod webworms, armyworms and cutworms. It is somewhat weather-durable, but can break down in extremely waterlogged soil before affecting the grubs. Because it is susceptible to sun degradation, it should be watered in after application to be effective (just not to the point that the soil becomes waterlogged). This activates the insecticide. Merit lasts from 15 to 19 weeks which makes timing critical for application and full season control. If timed properly in spring, the application should last effectively throughout the summer.

Another grub control uses Cloranthranilprole which kills 25% more grub types than Imidacloprid (Merit). It has many of the characteristics and downfalls as Merit. It also has the same application instructions as Merit.

There are several other insect controls that will kill grubs along with other lawn & garden insects. These products contain Zeta-Cypermethrin, Trichlorfon, Gamma-Cyhalothrin, and Bifenthrin. Consult with your local hardware store or extension office to find out which product would work best for your lawn or garden.

—Len Schrock,  
Jonathan Green  
Consultant,  
Grabill & Woodburn  
Hardware Do It Best

## Scripture of the Week

"But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children— with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts."

— Psalm 103:17-18

## MINISTERING TO THE LORD



"Ministering to the Lord" refers to the act of serving, worshiping, and dedicating oneself to God.

Often, we see God as this great supply warehouse in the sky where we get all of our needs met.

Need a new job? Call God. Need a new car? Call God. Need a situation changed? Call God. Need help? call God.

To some extent, this is true because one of His many names, "Jehovah Jireh," is a transliteration of "Jehovah Jireh," a name for God found in the Bible. (Genesis 22:14) It is derived from Hebrew and means "The Lord will provide." This name is often associated with the story of Abraham, in which God provides a ram as a substitute for Isaac. It reflects the belief in God's provision and care for His

people. We often look to God to minister to us, but when was the last time you ministered to God? When did you set aside time to tell him how beautiful he is, how you adore him, or how much you love him? I believe this is the purpose of praise and worship. Not asking for anything, but simply thanking God for who he is and what he has done for you in your life.

It also helps us get out of ourselves. As humans in this flesh, we have a tendency to think only about ourselves and our own needs. Sometimes we don't realize just how self-centered we are.

This week, I'd like you to set time aside to tell God just how much you love and adore him.

When this type of praise goes up, blessings truly come down.

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." - Revelation 4:11 (ESV)

In summary, ministering to the Lord is a realistic approach to a faith-filled life that includes thanking our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for who He is and all that he has done and will do in our lives.

Thank you, Lord. Where would we be without you? Peace and Love.

—Pastor Dwayne

(Continued from Page 1)

local businesses and organizations throughout the region.

School officials noted that the new facility is about much more than simply adding classroom space. The expansion is intended to create additional opportunities for students to build, create, collaborate and gain practical experience that will prepare them for future careers and higher education pathways.

The project was made possible through the support and collaboration of numerous community partners, educators and school leaders. Special recognition was given to Angie Stokes, Wayne Trace STEAM teacher, for her leadership and vision in helping guide

the continued growth and development of the district's STEAM programming.

When completed, the new facility will provide expanded resources and learning environments that support innovation, creativity and workforce readiness, helping ensure students have access to cutting-edge educational opportunities right in their own community.

Those interested in learning more about the expansion project can view a presentation online that details the plans and vision for the new STEAM Center - just scan the QR code here:



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**IT'S IN THE KISS**

**Penny For Your Thoughts**

**By: Nancy Whitaker**

Do you remember your first kiss? Was it a playful kiss? A peck on the cheek? Well my experiences started in kindergarten. I was a small little girl and at recess we gals would go outside and chase little boys. I knew which boy I wanted to catch. He ran faster than me and I never did catch him. If I would have caught him, I would have kissed him. So that was not a first kiss, but it was fun trying.

I bet people have been kissing since Biblical times. We do know that Judas betrayed Jesus with a kiss, and I read that kisses are mentioned in various scriptures. There was the Parting Kiss, a Betrayal Kiss, a Devotional Kiss, a Passionate Kiss, and a Kiss of Fellowship (greeting). Some countries use kissing as a form of greeting.

Of course we may have heard of French Kisses, cheek kisses, forehead kisses, single lip kissing and butterfly kissing. The last two types of smooching I don't think I have tried. A friend told me that butterfly kisses is when you use your eyelashes and brush your partners cheek. Then there is the so called Eskimo kisses which we have all probably tried. The kiss involves two noses rubbing together.

I always thought that you could spread germs if you have a cold by kissing. However it seems as if kissing is good for us. Kisses are supposed to make us feel better. If you kiss and pass germs a doctor says kissing exposes us to bacteria that helps build our

immunity. In fact, studies have shown that kissing can transfer over 80 million different bacteria between partners, which works out well for our well-being. The bacteria introduced when kissing help the body recognize and fight off illness. Plus, the act can stimulate saliva production, which washes away harmful bacteria. Now we can just kiss whenever.

As kids we used to play Spin the Bottle. If the bottle landed on the right person, they could tell someone else something to do. A friend of mine told me he got his first kiss by playing Spin the Bottle.



(I wonder if he was 12 years old or 32) That is a joke.

The longest kiss lasted 58 hours, 35 minutes and 58 seconds according to Guinness Book of records. Also couples have broken up over being bad kissers.

I did not know this until I was told that no two lip impressions are the same.

I think everyone may want or like a kiss even if you have a cold. According to some doctor we just get our germs together and both get sick.

Here's something to do: Tell me some songs with Kiss in the title and I will give you a Penny For Your Thoughts or maybe a Butterfly Kiss...

Here are a few songs: "Kiss an Angel good morning," Charley Pride "Then he kissed me" "Kiss Me Quick" by Elvis Presley "It's in His kiss"

disappeared from her diary.

I realized I was reading a part of my mother's life I had never known. I found myself thinking that Mom and I should've spent some time together reading her diaries so she could tell me the real story of her life.

Knowing that her friends would have some answers, I began visiting them. They knew who Chuck was and could identify him in the photos. They also remembered when Mom was dating Jack Yoder, a man whose name appeared in her diary when he was on leave from the Army.

In May of 1944, Mom wrote that Jack had given her a bracelet as a gift. I wonder if I've ever seen that bracelet.

I knew my mother had dated Jack, and they'd gone to his family's restaurant on her commencement day for a meal. Her diary confirmed what she'd told me. On May 18, she recorded: "Went out to Yoder's for a chicken supper."

She had also told me that the image of his parents arriving at her work at The Edgerton Earth newspaper office, in February of 1945, was something she'd never forget. His parents were there to tell her they'd received a telegram. Their son had been killed in Europe.

She left work on her bicycle, stopping at the church to pray on her way home. I wonder how long she cried.

Her experience made me think of the many women from her generation who'd received the same news. Who went through the same heartache and wrote words they never thought they'd write. Many of those diaries are still in existence, here to tell us just a small part of a life story.

In July of 1946, my father's name appeared in Mom's diary for the first time. She journaled that Vern Kimpel had stopped by her work that day, and they talked for a "long time."

On August 16 she wrote: "Mom and Dad went up to Aunt Goldies. I told Vern Kimpel I didn't have any brakes on bike and he stopt in front of me just to see. He's nice."

In September, they spent a Friday evening together at the Williams County Fair on a double date with Mom's sister Verda and her boyfriend Alfred Curry. Mom spelled Dad's last name wrong when she

wrote: "Al invited Vernon Kimple to go with us. Had a good time."

Dad's birthday was the next day, and she wrote: "Vern called me up this afternoon and told me he got his car and wanted us to celebrate his birthday. Went to Bryan to a show. Gave him a plaid necktie."

They went on their third date on Sunday - taking Dad's new car to Fort Wayne to see the movie To Each His Own at the Paramount. On the way home, they stopped for a frozen malt at Gardner's. In the right margin of the diary, she noted the words "wonderful evening."

Mom continued to keep a diary as they dated and throughout their engagement, but stopped journaling after she was married. The two of them started a new diary together in 1954, and Dad's handwriting is present for the first eight days. Then it's Mom's handwriting. They were busy people, and the journaling slowed down as the months ticked by.

After Dad passed away in 2008, I took Mom to the mall to shop for clothes for the funeral. We needed a necktie to deliver to the funeral home, and as we stood in the men's department, it occurred to her: The first thing she'd ever bought for Vern was a necktie for his twenty-seventh birthday. More than six decades later, I watched her buy the last thing she would purchase for him - a necktie.

Years after Mom passed away, the story came to life again as I read that she had given him a necktie on his birthday in 1946. Her diary entry gave me one last detail: It was plaid. Such a small thing, yet her words helped me see the realness in the story of their life together. Their moments were just ordinary, forgettable moments, yet she preserved them in her own handwriting in the pages of those old diaries.

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

(Continued from Page 1)

curing a banner may contact the Paulding County Engineer's Office for details.

During the meeting, leaders were informed that the county has been awarded a \$50,000 grant for a Land Development Study, which will support forward-thinking discussions on growth, land use, and future development opportunities. Representatives from Antwerp, Cecil, Grover Hill, Haviland, Latty, and Oakwood were present to discuss the grant, along with special guest Scott Sands from the Office of State Auditor Keith Faber.

Speaking on behalf of the Paulding County Engineer's Office, Strahley outlined long-term plans to assist the Auditor's office and eventually assume responsibility for countywide GIS mapping. The transition aims to improve consistency and accessibility of mapping resources, including the addition of

sewer, water, internet, and gas utility layers. Enhanced mapping will support future development discussions by providing clear visibility of existing infrastructure. The county also expressed willingness to coordinate line-locating services for villages without current mapping.

Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copey provided updates on ongoing economic development efforts, including the county's recent \$638,000 Brownfield Grant award from the Ohio Department of Development and continued progress across multiple residential and commercial Land Bank projects. Copey noted that several projects from the previous funding cycle are nearing completion and that a new project list has been prepared for the 2026-27 application. Copey also encouraged communities to identify additional homes or lots that

**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**

I found this fella to be very interesting...

Edward Andrew Szabo was born on December 21, 1894,



in Madasel, Hungary. He was the son of Andrew Szabo, who was born on July 20, 1863, in Austria, and Mary (Ivan) Szabo, whose birth date could not be found. Edward became a naturalized citizen in 1907. I am guessing his parents did as well. Records were difficult to find until 1920, but I am certain the Szabo family came to Paulding County before 1915 because, on January 27, 1915, Edward joined the National Guard out of Paulding. He enlisted as a private in Company B, 2nd Ohio National Guard.

Edward was a farmer and, on May 22, 1917, married Ilo Emma Ansley in Monroe, Michigan. She was born on April 28, 1894, in Blue Creek Township, Paulding County. On February 17, 1918, Edward was discharged from the National Guard and was listed as an alien enemy. He was not assigned a serial number. Hungary, as any historian of World War I would know, was an enemy of France and Britain as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

On September 12, 1918, Edward was farming when he was called to register for the World War I draft. He was listed as being 5 feet 6 inches tall, with brown hair, brown eyes, a light complexion, and a stout build. He was not selected to serve.

By 1920, Edward, Ilo, and their two-year-old son, Edward Basil Szabo, were living

in Jackson Township, where Edward was farming.

On September 27, 1923, Edward's parents, Andrew and Mary, were living in Geauga County, Ohio. The following account appeared in the Daily Journal Herald of Delaware, Ohio. Andrew had driven his team of horses under a tree when the first large raindrops began to fall. A few seconds later, the tree split in two, and Andrew Szabo fell dead. The horses, uninjured, ran about, giving Andrew's wife, Mary, her first indication that something was wrong. A triple rainbow appeared during the storm and was seen by witnesses to the event. Andrew was buried in East Claridon Cemetery in Claridon, Ohio.

By 1930, Edward's family had grown with the addition of daughter Phyllis Marie, born March 20, 1920, and son Dale Ansley, born May 28, 1924, in Broughton. Edward continued farming.

By 1940, he was still farming in Jackson Township. Edward Jr. and Phyllis had married and moved out on their own.

On June 27, 1942, Dale registered for the draft. His brother, Edward, did as well. Edward was not selected, but Dale was. That is a story for another time.

By 1950, Edward had started working for Fruehauf Trailer Company in Fort Wayne. Edward and Ilo had moved to Paulding and were living at 808 Harrison Street. Edward also served as a custodian for the Paulding Methodist Church.

Edward retired in 1960 and remained at home with Ilo in Paulding. On Saturday, August 21, 1965, at 10:00 a.m., Edward passed away at Parkview Memorial Hospital from prostate cancer, a condition he had battled for two years.

Services were held on Tuesday, August 24, 1965, at 2:00 p.m. at Paulding Methodist Church, with the Rev. John Zinsmeister officiating. Edward was laid to rest in Live Oak Cemetery.

Ilo passed away on January 17, 1975, and was buried beside Edward.

... Until Next Time!



**DIARIES**

**Dotting My Teas By:**

**Marlene Oxender**

If there's one thing I wish I had written - something that takes years to write - it would be a diary. I'd keep the kind of diary that keeps track of forgettable moments - what we did and where we went. Just the facts.

Those who keep the other kind of diary - full of thoughts and feelings - are sharing words meant for their eyes only. That kind of diary must be placed under lock and key and hidden in a safe place. The

owner of the diary knows where the secret hiding spot is, and so does the anonymous reader.

Years go by, and if the little book is still around when their estate is sorted, someone is going to find the diary and take it home to read. That is when a diary becomes a story.

My mother began writing in diaries at the age of fourteen and continued throughout her teenage years and her engagement to my dad. She wrote about her friends and what they did. The ball games and movies. The dances. She listened to the "Hit Parade" and noted which song was number one for the week. I should count how many times she'd written the word "fun."

She wrote about a guy named Chuck, but I didn't know who Chuck was. The two were dating in 1945, but she felt they'd probably break up by the end of the year. He gave her pearls for Christmas, but after the holidays his name

may qualify for the Welcome Home Ohio (WHO) Grant.

Village leaders concluded

the meeting by sharing updates on community challenges and successes.

**The Paulding County Veterans' Service Office**

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

**There are two basic services the agency provides:**

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

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

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

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

**Arrangements can be made for after office hours appointments**

**Any questions, please call 419-399-8285**

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**THE 1<sup>st</sup> AUTOMOBILE**



**By: James Neuhouser**

The first production automobile was by Ford in 1902. Wrong. The first production automobile was made in 1888. This is a story I've never heard before and it is most amazing.

The first vehicle to actually travel on the roads was The Motor Wagon, invented by Carl Benz in 1886, patented and put into production in 1888. As with the invention of the airplane there were many people working on it at the same time in different countries.

Most of the inventors were putting a motor under the seat of a buggy. Carl was the first to build the entire machine from scratch. Many were building engines and Carl made his engine, a four cycle single cylinder with a 954 cc displacement. It only had about 2/3 of a horsepower and had a bit of difficulty going up hills.

The engines were somewhat like a John Deere tractor, only with one cylinder. A huge flywheel which you spin to start. When it fired it would turn four times before it fired again. You can imagine what a challenge it would be to make

all of the machine parts of an engine. Then to make all the gears, the leaf springs, it was the work of a genius.

The first auto was constructed in 1886 but it was put in the barn and forgotten. After all people didn't need different transportation when they had a horse and buggy. The top speed of the auto was 10 or 12 mph, not much more than the speed of a horse and buggy.

People ridiculed the invention. Carl's backers pulled out and he ended up with only one supporter, his wife Bertha. Bertha put her dowry into the intervention. And another thing about Bertha, she was a born promoter. She devised a scheme to get Carl's machine some attention.

Early in the morning of August 5, 1888, Bertha got up early in the morning, took her two oldest children and rolled the machine out of the barn. She was going to visit her mother.

Mannheim, Germany to Pforzheim a distance of 66 mi. The trip took an entire day, they got there in the evening.

Many problems along the way. The leather strap used as a brake broke and a blacksmith was able to install a new one. The fuel line plugged but she was able to unplug it with a hat pin. A couple of stops at a drugstore to buy bottles of fuel. It burned a cleaning fluid called Ligrone which was sold in 12 oz bottles at the nearest drugstore.

The notoriety she got from

this venture got several orders and a company was set up to produce automobiles. It was an upgrade to spin the flywheel, hop in and go, then to hitch up horses. Also you didn't have to feed it everyday when you weren't working. The company exists to this day, Mercedes-Benz. 1200 of these automobiles were made. In early 1900s other companies started making more powerful and cheaper automobiles and took over the automobile market.



**PAULDING COUNTY FAIR SET FOR WEEK OF FAMILY FUN & 4-H ACTIVITIES**

PAULDING - The Paulding County Fair will return to the Paulding County Fairgrounds June 6-13, offering a week packed with 4-H and Junior Fair competitions, livestock shows, grandstand events, family entertainment and community activities. Admission to the fair is free, and free rides will be available daily from 1:00-10:00 p.m. throughout the fair.

The fair officially gets underway on Saturday, June 6, with livestock move-in and weigh-ins, a Junior Fair barn

meeting and the annual Demo Derby at 7:00 p.m. in the grandstand.

Activities continue Sunday with church services, the Junior Fair Dog Show, horse events, a kiddie tractor pull, Tucker Rodkey performing gospel music, an open goat and sheep show, KOI drag racing, the 10 Talents showcase and a family movie night featuring Charlotte's Web.

Monday's schedule features the Junior Fair Goat Show, rabbit showmanship and breeding events, harness racing, the annual parade and coronation activities, a cornhole tournament and appearances by Mike Bishop, Hypnotist, and The WonderDog Show.

Tuesday includes Senior Citizen Day activities, the 4-H Cloverbud Show and Tell, poultry judging, Veteran's Day Bean Supper, Junior Fair Swine Show, line dancing lessons and entertainment from Magic of Eli and The Wonder Dog Show.

Livestock competition remains a major focus throughout the week. Wednesday features the Junior Fair Market Rabbit Show, Junior Fair Sheep Show, Junior Fair Beef and Dairy Show and the feeder calf auction. The evening concludes with professional wrestling and music from the Seventy80 Band.

Thursday's schedule highlights 4-H Family and Consumer Science judging and awards, horse competitions, Animal & Me activities, an ob-

stacle course challenge, an open swine show, the Mini Cheer Exhibition, Mini Horse Pulling and performances by The Cup Guy. The Northwest Ohio Women in Agriculture Meet and Greet and Singo Bingo will also be held during the evening.

Friday will feature 4-H Natural Resources and STEM judging, Companion Animal and Veterinary Science judging, horse contesting, the Black Swamp Beef Showdown and an inflatable costume obstacle course. The evening grandstand attraction will be the National Tractor Pullers Association Tractor Pull, followed by music and dancing.

The fair wraps up Saturday, June 13, with the Farm Bureau Farmer Share Breakfast, the annual Livestock Auction, a Junior Fair Horse Fun Show and the popular Rodeo at 7:00 p.m., followed by fireworks.

Throughout the week, visitors can also enjoy Acres of Fun educational programming, livestock exhibitions, horse shows, harness racing, family entertainment acts, live music and numerous 4-H and Junior Fair events showcasing the accomplishments of Paulding County youth. Fair officials note that the schedule is subject to change.

**ACPL HIGHLIGHTS COMMUNITY IMPACT IN 2025 REPORT**

(FORT WAYNE, IN) - The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) has released its 2025

Community Impact Report, showcasing another year of extraordinary service, growth, and community engagement. Most notably, the Library's circulation reached 11.8 items per capita—nearly double the national average, underscoring the vital role ACPL plays in the daily lives of Allen County residents.

This milestone reflects a community that not only values access to information but actively uses it. In total, more than 4.5 million items were borrowed in 2025, supported by a robust collection of millions of physical and digital materials.

"The strength of our circulation numbers speaks volumes about how deeply our community relies on the library," said ACPL Executive Director Susan P. Baier. "To see our per capita circulation reach nearly twice the national average is both remarkable and reaffirming—it shows that the library is not just available, but essential to everyday life in Allen County."

Beyond circulation, the report highlights widespread community engagement across the Library's 14 locations. In 2025, ACPL welcomed more than 1.6 million visits and hosted over 11,000 meetings and gatherings, reinforcing its role as a hub for connection, learning, and opportunity.

The library also continued to expand its reach, adding more than 22,000 new cardholders, including 8,000 students, through its partnership with Fort Wayne Community Schools. This growth brings total cardholders to 57% of Allen County residents (2020 U.S. Census), a strong indicator of the community's trust and investment in its public library.

Additional highlights from the 2025 report include:

- 1.4 million children's items borrowed, supporting early literacy and lifelong learning
- 1.4 million e-books and e-audiobooks circulated, expanding digital access
- 1,780 outreach events, bringing library services directly into the community
- \$4.7 million invested in library materials, significantly exceeding state standards for collection spending

The report also reflects the Library's continued focus on access, innovation, and community-centered service through its 2024-2028 strategic plan.

"The numbers tell an important story," Baier added. "But what they truly represent is a return on investment from a community that believes in the power of libraries to educate, to connect, and to transform lives."

**★ 2026 PAULDING COUNTY COMMUNITY EVENTS ★**

**— SUMMER EVENTS —**

**CLASSIC MOVIE WEDNESDAYS**  
June 3 - Aug 26 | 11 AM & 4 PM  
Paulding County Carnegie Library  
205 S Main St, Paulding, Ohio

**INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION**  
July 4 | 2:00 PM  
Independence Day Ceremony  
Veterans Memorial Park, Payne, Ohio  
**Following Ceremony**  
Music, food, and fellowship  
Rueben Smith American Legion Hall  
220 N Main St, Payne, Ohio

**PATRIOTIC KIDDIE PARADE & CANDY BAR BINGO**  
July 6 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM  
Bring your bikes, golf carts, or walking shoes for a patriotic parade from Antwerp Manor to VFW Pavilion, where Candy Bar Bingo will follow. Antwerp, Ohio

**JOHN PAULDING SUMMER BLAST**  
July 10 | 5:00 - 11:00 PM  
Parade, Games, Food, Fireworks  
July 11 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Community Lunch, Historical Tours, Abe Lincoln Appearance, Games, Music, Shopping and More.  
Downtown Paulding, Ohio

**PAULDING VETERANS MEMORIAL TOUR**  
July 11 | 1:00 - 3:00 PM  
Paulding Veterans Memorial  
220 N. Williams St., Paulding, Ohio

**— FALL EVENTS —**

**OAKWOOD HOMECOMING**  
September 6  
Fireworks at dusk - Oakwood Ball Park  
September 7 | 11 AM  
Parade - Downtown Oakwood, Ohio

**AMERICA 250 CORN MAZE**  
Sep 7 - Oct 31 | 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
Weller Farms  
24821 Road 207, Oakwood, Ohio

**PAULDING COUNTY FALL FESTIVAL**  
September 11 | All Day  
Featuring Vietnam Memorial Wall Traveling Exhibit, with guest speakers Guy Gruters, former POW, and Civil War historian Bill Foley.  
Paulding County Fairgrounds  
501 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio

**25TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE TRUCK SHOW**  
September 20 | 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Paulding County History Museum  
600 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio

**OHIO GOES TO THE MOVIES**  
September 26 | 4:00 - 7:30 PM  
Hosted by Pldg. Co. Carnegie Library  
501 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio

**FESTIVAL OF TREES**  
Nov 13 - 21 | All Day  
Paulding County History Museum  
600 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio



**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

*Celebrating our history.*



John Paulding  
AMERICAN REVOLUTION HERO



Scan for full schedule!

Find full event details, updates and links:

[pauldingchamber.com](http://pauldingchamber.com)

**— YEAR-ROUND EVENT —**

**CRANE TOWNSHIP GUIDED DRIVING TOUR**  
Throughout 2026  
Explore Crane Township's history at your own pace using a printable companion booklet and map. Visit: [cranetwppeohio.gov](http://cranetwppeohio.gov)  
Plan for about 2 hours if completing the full tour in one outing.

Event details may change. Visit [pauldingchamber.com](http://pauldingchamber.com) for the most up-to-date information.

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**MORE EVENTS ON BACK**

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*Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of speech. Nevertheless, we do not necessarily concur with the content that has been printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered. Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence. To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address. You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax. Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publication. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.*

When she graduated, she came home summers to work at the pool. She went to college to become a teacher, she taught the kids swimming lessons at the pool and those hours counted as some of her "teaching experience". While at the pool she had a PERS account. So it's not just a place for kids to play, it's summer jobs, learning experience, teaching experience. I see things VERY differently now!!!

—Rhonda Bakle, Paulding, OH

**LADY PANTHERS ADVANCES WITH TOURNAMENT WIN OVER EASTWOOD**

CLYDE — Paulding used timely hitting and a strong pitching performance from Tia Mendez to earn a 4-1 softball tournament victory over Eastwood on May 22 at Clyde.

The Panthers scored two runs in the second inning and added two more in the third to build a 4-0 advantage before Eastwood broke through with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

Mendez went the distance in the circle for Paulding, allowing one earned run on six hits while striking out 10 and walking four.

Eastwood pitcher Mackenzie Hady struck out 13 batters and did not issue a walk, but suffered the loss after allowing four runs, two earned, on five hits.

Luci Martinez provided the big blow for the Panthers with a single and home run while scoring twice and driving in two runs. Gracie Leal doubled and added an RBI, while Mariah Klopfenstein

and Cadence Schwab each singled. Schwab also scored a run.

Eastwood was led by Hady, who singled, doubled and scored the team's lone run. Addy Loomis doubled, tripled and drove in a run, while Karly Wasserman and Maddie Hartman each added singles.

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

"So incredibly proud of all of our girls and their teamwork," Clark said. "We got up early and made some awesome plays defensively. Love the energy our girls are bringing down the tournament trail!"

**PAULDING POWERS PAST FOSTORIA IN DIVISION V TOURNAMENT**

DEFIANCE — Paulding erupted for 14 runs over the first three innings and rolled to a 14-6 victory over Fostoria in Division V sectional baseball action on May 25 at Defiance.

With the win, the Panthers improved to 13-11 and advanced to district semifinal play May 28 at Bluffton University against Liberty-Benton High School at 4:30 p.m.

Paulding scored two runs in the first inning, exploded for six more in the second, and added another six-run frame in the third to build a commanding 14-1 lead.

Zachary Barton earned the win on the mound, allowing one earned run on three hits while striking out two in three innings. Wes Grindstaff worked the final four innings in relief, striking out seven.

Fostoria starter Jayden Simmons took the loss after allowing seven runs, five earned, over five innings. Amarius Velazquez surrendered seven runs in one inning of relief work.

Nick Baughman led the Panthers at the plate with a single, triple, two runs scored and an RBI. Easton Lehman added two singles and three RBI, while Zachary Barton tripled and drove in two runs.

Colten Hunt singled, scored three times and added an RBI, while Ridge Hunt had a single, two runs and two RBI. Grady Arend also singled, scored twice and drove in two runs. Stroker Etter tripled and added an RBI, Tyler Goyings singled and drove in a run, and Grady Barton added a single and run scored.

Fostoria was led by Dawson Smith with a double, two runs scored and an RBI. Emmanuel Jimenez-Reza singled

and drove in two runs, while Barrett Hernandez singled and scored. Sergio Salazar and Jayden Simmons each added an RBI for the Redmen.

**ROSSWURM FIRES NO-HITTER AS WAYNE TRACE BLANKS EVERGREEN 5-0**

HAVILAND — Brody Rosswurm tossed a no-hitter and struck out 10 batters to lead Wayne Trace to a 5-0 victory over Evergreen in Division VI sectional baseball action on May 25.

With the win, the Raiders improved to 12-11 and advanced to face Lincolnview High School on Wednesday at Napoleon High School in district semifinal play. Evergreen closed its season at 11-10-1.

After two scoreless innings, Wayne Trace broke through with a run in the third before adding four more runs in the fourth inning to take control.

Rosswurm dominated on the mound, allowing no hits and no runs over seven innings while walking three. He recorded 10 strikeouts in the complete-game effort.

Nolan Hudik took the loss for Evergreen after giving up five earned runs on five hits over four innings while striking out three.

Wayne Trace collected six hits in the contest. Rosswurm helped his own cause with a single, while Tanner Laukhuf singled and scored a run. Carter Clemens added a single, run scored and RBI, and Caleb Sinn singled and crossed the plate once.

Jack Schoenauer contributed a single, run and RBI for the Raiders. Blake Noggle also singled, while Ryan Gluts and Carter Baumle each drove in a run.

**PAULDING TOPS DELPHOS JEFFERSON 6-1**

PAULDING — Ridge Hunt struck out seven batters over 4-1/3 innings and Paulding pulled away for a 6-1 baseball win over Delphos Jefferson on May 26.

The Panthers grabbed a 1-0 lead in the first inning before adding two more runs in the second for a 3-0 advantage. Delphos Jefferson answered with its lone run in the fourth, but Paulding put the game away with three runs in

*(Continued on Page 7)*

**TEN FINANCIAL STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE AND AFTER YOUR WEDDING DAY**

Getting married is a major decision that comes with a financial to-do list that's arguably more important than choosing a venue or a cake. Talking openly about money can help set you and your partner up for a stronger future.

What financial conversations should I have with my fiancé?

Head into your marriage with honest conversations about money, including these four topics:

1. Discuss how your families handled finances when you were young, whether you're a spender or saver and what debt you're willing to take on.

2. Share how much you each earn, spend and save. Discuss assets and debts, including mortgages, student or auto loans and credit card balances; your partner's debt can become joint debt after marriage.

3. Align on a budget as a couple that reflects the life you want to build – where you'll live; what you'll spend on housing, travel and hobbies; and how often you'll review your finances together.

4. Talk through your goals. Make separate lists of short-, medium- and long-term financial dreams and compare them. You'll likely find some common ground, and where you don't, look for ways to compromise. A financial advisor can help.

Should I ask for a prenup?

Couples with significantly different assets or debts, those expecting large inheritances or those blending families are more likely to want to consider a prenuptial agreement. A prenup outlines how assets, debts, future income, inheritance and even spousal support will be handled during the marriage and if it ends, but it cannot address child custody.

Should my new spouse and I blend our finances?

Regarding couples blending finances, there's no one right answer. Some couples combine everything, others keep accounts separate and many land somewhere in between. Agree on who pays which bills, how major deci-

sions get made and what spending threshold triggers a check-in.

What financial tasks should we complete after getting married?

Once you're married, these six tasks deserve attention.

1. Take advantage of the special enrollment period, which typically lasts 30 days after getting married, to update employer benefits such as health insurance. Revisit retirement plan contributions if your combined income has grown.

2. Review insurance coverage. Combining homeowners or renters, auto and umbrella policies can often reduce costs. Make sure you have enough life insurance.

3. Update beneficiaries on insurance policies, retirement plans, investment accounts, bank accounts and real estate.

4. If you change your name, order multiple copies of your marriage certificate. You'll need them to update your Social Security card, financial accounts, and employer and medical records.

5. Update your W-4 withholding to reflect your new marital status and ask a tax professional whether filing jointly or separately makes more sense.

6. Work with an attorney to create or update your will, medical directive, and financial and health care powers of attorney. Your estate plan should reflect your new life together.

Marriage is a fresh start.

With honest conversations, careful planning and the right professional support, you can build a financial foundation as strong as your relationship.

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

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Way back 25 years ago the village wanted a new pool for our kids, I was very vocal about not "needing one", sure my kid had a pool in our yard. The pool levy passed and the pool was built. Then I learned a valuable lesson-my daughter was 15½ and wanted to be a lifeguard. I signed the paper letting her. She was trained and she worked at that pool for, I believe, 5 years.

**READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS**

**OHIO LOCATIONS**

**Antwerp:** Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,

**Bryan:** 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Ney:** Marathon

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

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

Carnegie Library, Stykemain, VFW Post 587

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

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

**Scott:** Scott Post Office

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

**INDIANA LOCATIONS**

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

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

**Harlan:** Marathon, Harlan Donuts, Dollar 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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# RAIDER SPOTLIGHT

## MAY 2026

### From the Superintendent's Desk ...

The end of the 2025-26 school year is here. We have had graduation for seniors and kindergartners. Spring sports is winding down, and the halls of our buildings are about to get a lot quieter. It will be a well-deserved break, but August will be here before we know it, and we will begin the 2026-27 school year, and do it all over again.

Today, May 28th, marked a historical day for Wayne Trace Local Schools. We held a groundbreaking ceremony as we begin construction soon on our STEAM Center. Alexander & Bebout will begin construction soon, around the second week of June. It has been a long process but the idea will soon become a reality. The STEAM Center will be an expansion and located on the west side of the high school, close to the main entrance. The completion date is scheduled for early January 2027. We are excited for our community and students.

Attending the groundbreaking ceremony were: District 82 State Representative Roy Klopfenstein; Director of Economic Development Paulding County Tim Copsy; Director Paulding County Area Foundation Lisa McClure; Wayne Trace Local School Board Members Clint Sinn, Blane Stoller, Jeremy Moore, and Paul DeJarnett.

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

### From the Treasurer's Desk...

Did you know that Wayne Trace Local Schools has been awarded an Ohio Technical Education Equipment Grant in the amount of \$2,413,590.54. The grant is being used to support the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Project that has been implemented at the High School. With this grant opportunity, the district has been able to purchase new equipment and supplies for the program. On June 8th, the district broke ground on an addition of classrooms at the High School for the Steam Program. Without this grant, the addition would not be possible. This is a huge opportunity for our students!

### Grover Hill Building Update...

The year is winding down at Grover Hill Elementary. We have lots to celebrate! The week of May 4th-8th marked Teacher Appreciation Week. The building celebrated its staff with a variety of daily refreshments, including coffees, breakfast treats, lunches, and ice cream. A special thanks to the Board for providing treats and gifts that made the entire staff feel valued.



On Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. Wayne Trace Local Schools broke ground on the STEAM Center Expansion. Attendees for the day included OH Rep. Roy Klopfenstein, WT school administrators, WT School Board members, PCAF director and PC Commissioner Lisa McClure, PCED director Tim Copsy, and a representative from the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce.



The school successfully wrapped up state testing with a perfect 100% participation and our scores came back strong!

In the classrooms, creative learning remains on full display. The third-grade class recently participated in an immersive "Glow Day," which provided students with a unique, high-energy environment to review and master their curriculum.

Battle of the Books: The school's Battle of the Books team celebrated the conclusion of their season with a special lunch outing before competing in the highly anticipated county meet.

We finished our year with our Kindergarten Celebration, Awards Ceremonies, a talent show and a fantastic Carnival Day put together by our OUTSTANDING PTO.

Have a safe and blessed summer. **We will be excited to start the 2026-2027 school year on August 18, 2026!**

### Payne Building Update...

As we wrap up another successful year, I want to extend my gratitude to both students and staff for their hard work. A special shout out goes to our sixth graders as they prepare for their next adventure in school next year. Mark your calendars: the first day of school will be August 18, with an open house on August 13 from 6 to 7 PM. I also want to recognize Brynlee Stoller and Hannah Mawer for achieving all A's on every report card during their time at Payne. Wishing everyone a fantastic summer, and I can't wait to see you all in August! **Go Raiders!**

### Jr/Sr High School Building Update...

As the 2025-2026 school year winds down, Wayne Trace JR/SR High School continues to celebrate the hard work, accomplishments, and dedication of our students, staff, and community.

State testing has officially concluded at the high school and junior high levels. We would like to thank our custodial staff, students, and teachers for their teamwork in preparing and resetting the gyms for testing, along with the extra effort and support shown throughout the testing process. We appreciate the commitment from everyone involved and are hopeful the results reflect the dedication of our students and staff.

We are also extremely grateful to our community members who generously provided breakfasts for students and teachers on testing mornings, as well as our cafeteria staff for preparing hot breakfasts on addi-

tional testing days. Their kindness and support were greatly appreciated.

Wayne Trace National Honor Society members, under the direction of Mr. Dave Sorensen, organized a successful 5K event in Payne on May 2. The event was well attended and showcased outstanding leadership, service, and Raider pride from our students.

Relay for Life was another meaningful event this spring. We would like to thank Mrs. Maureen Sorensen and Student Council for their hard work organizing the event. Students, staff, and community members participated enthusiastically and generously supported a great cause.

Prom 2026 was held on Saturday, May 9. Special thanks go to Mrs. Jessica Holden, the staff members in attendance, junior parents, and students for their efforts in organizing a memorable evening and after-prom event at Crazy Pinz in Fort Wayne. We also appreciate the sophomore students and parents who assisted with cleanup efforts.

The Wayne Trace FFA Banquet, led by Mrs. Lori Keipper and the FFA officers, was another successful event this spring. The banquet featured excellent presentations, recognition of student accomplishments, and a strong turnout from the community.

Our annual district art show was held on April 18 and featured over 1,000 student works from grades K-12, including senior portfolio displays and AP artwork. Wayne Trace continues to showcase outstanding student creativity and artistic talent.

Students in our Video Production program also had a unique opportunity to work alongside educators from around the region through a partnership project with Ohio State University's East Asian Studies Center and the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia.

Congratulations to Angie Miesle Stokes, who received a prestigious Funds for Teachers Fellowship through the Martha Holden Jennings Foundation. She will spend time this summer researching botanical imagery in art and architecture throughout Europe and East Asia to develop future STEAM-centered learning opportunities for students.

Congratulations as well to our choir and band students on earning "Excellent" ratings at the OMEA State Contest Competition and for their spring concert performances. Great job to our students and directors Mr. Kennicutt, Mr. O'Donnell, Mr. Bohland, and Ms. Klopfenstein for their outstanding work and dedication.

Wayne Trace students continue to

demonstrate innovation and compassion through our Engineering Principles program. Two students are currently designing and constructing a graduation ramp to ensure a senior classmate can fully participate in the graduation ceremony alongside peers. This thoughtful project highlights the care and teamwork within our Raider family.

Through a grant from Battelle, Wayne Trace also purchased four VEX CTE Robotic Arm Work Cells, which will be utilized next school year in Engineering Principles, Engineering Design, Robotics, and STEAM 8 courses. These resources will provide students with hands-on experiences in coding, troubleshooting, and robotics operation.

On May 17, our 77 seniors officially crossed the stage and graduated, marking the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. This class has left a lasting impact on our school through their leadership, resilience, achievements, and school spirit. Throughout their years here, they have grown not only academically, but also as individuals prepared to take on new opportunities and challenges ahead. We are proud of all they have accomplished and grateful for the memories they created within our halls. As they move forward into college, careers, and other future plans, we wish each member of the Class of 2026 continued success and happiness in the journey ahead.

As another successful school year comes to a close, we would like to sincerely thank our students, staff, families, Board of Education, and community for their continued support of Wayne Trace JR/SR High School. We are fortunate to work alongside such dedicated people and remain proud of the accomplishments of our Raider family.



### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Wayne Trace Local Schools  
4915 US 127  
Haviland, OH 45851  
419-263-2512

Superintendent: Paul Jones  
Treasurer: Lori Davis  
www.waynetrace.org

## WOODLAN POWERS PAST SOUTH ADAMS TO CAPTURE SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



Woodlan Senior Victoria Crozier slides safely into third, and the next play scores at home after a base hit by junior Lucy McHenry. More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

MONROE, Ind. — The Woodlan Warriors are sectional champions once again after an emphatic 11-1 victory over South Adams in Thursday night's sectional softball championship game at Adams Central. Woodlan wasted little time taking control, scoring seven runs in the first two innings and never looking back on its way to the title.

The Warriors erupted for five runs in the opening inning and added two more in the second to build a commanding 7-0 lead. South Adams managed its lone run in the third inning, but Woodlan answered with two runs in the fourth and two more in the sixth to put the game away. Woodlan finished with 11 runs on 12 hits while limiting the Starfires to just four hits.

Woodlan's offense was productive throughout the lineup. Sophomore Kaycie Reed turned in a perfect day at the plate, going 3-for-3 and scoring three runs. Senior V. Crozier added two hits and crossed the plate three times, while sophomore Ellece Krauter went 2-for-2 with a double and two runs scored. Sophomore S. Gillingham contributed two hits, including a double, and drove in a run. Junior Lucy McHenry

### REGIONAL TRACK ATHLETES CONTINUE PUSH TOWARD STATE

Area track and field athletes continue their push toward the OHSAA State Track and Field Championships this week as Wayne Trace, Paulding and Antwerp competitors take part in regional competition.

For Wayne Trace, "The Race for State Part 1" begins May 29th at Marion Harding with the boys 4x200 relay team of Reece Olwin, Eli Johnson, Eli Treece and Corbin Varner set to run at 6:25 p.m. Treece will also compete in the boys 400-meter dash at 7:07 p.m. The 4x400 relay team of Reece Morehead, Olwin, Varner and Treece was scheduled for 8:00 p.m. The top five finishers, along with three statewide wild cards, will advance to

chipped in a hit and an RBI. Freshman Amelia Riley delivered one of the biggest hits of the game, driving in four runs, while sophomore Brianna Noble added a double and three RBIs. As a team, the Warriors collected 12 hits and 10 RBIs in a balanced offensive performance.

In the circle, McHenry was dominant. The junior scattered four hits over six innings, allowing just one run while striking out seven and walking only one batter. She faced 23 hitters and kept the South Adams lineup off balance throughout the championship contest.

Defensively, Woodlan was equally sharp, committing only one error while recording 18 putouts. Addison Klotz was flawless in the field with seven putouts, and Crozier added six defensive chances without an error. The Warriors finished with a .958 fielding percentage.

The victory secured the sectional championship for Woodlan and improved the Warriors' postseason momentum as they advance deeper into the Indiana state tournament. South Adams concluded its season after reaching the sectional final.

Columbus.

Paulding will also be represented at regionals on May 29. Elliette Roughton is scheduled to compete in the girls long jump at 4:30 p.m. Kayleigh Dunham and Roughton have both qualified for the finals of the 100-meter hurdles, which are set for 6:00 p.m. Achilles Mead will compete in the boys 1600-meter run at 6:43 p.m. Gannon Parrett finished 10th overall in the long jump, while Landon Grinnell placed 12th overall in the 400-meter dash, closing out strong seasons for both Panthers.

Antwerp had several strong performances in regional semifinal action. The girls 4x800 relay placed 13th, the boys 4x800 relay finished 12th, Braxton Peters was 15th in pole vault, Kora Zuber placed 11th in the 100 meters, Reese Durbin was 15th in the 3200, and Corbin Sargent fin-

ished sixth in the 3200.

The Lady Archers advanced both the girls 4x200 and 4x100 relays to Saturday's (May 30) regional finals. Mia Stoye also qualified for the finals in both the 300 hurdles and 200 meters, setting a new stadium record in the 300 hurdles with a time of 44.81.

Antwerp's regional finals schedule on May 29 begins with field events at 11:00 a.m., including Amelia Graham in pole vault and Hampton Rogge in high jump. Running finals begin at 12:30 p.m., with Antwerp scheduled to compete in the girls 4x200 relay at 12:48 p.m., Reese Durbin in the girls 1600 at 1:05 p.m., Corbin Sargent in the boys 1600 at 1:13 p.m., the girls 4x100 relay at 1:20 p.m., Stoye in the girls 300 hurdles at 1:40 p.m., Durbin in the girls 800 at 1:50 p.m. and Stoye in the girls 200 at 2:00 p.m.

The top five finishers in each event will qualify for next week's state meet.

### PAULDING POUNDS BLUFFTON

PAULDING — Paulding exploded for six runs in the opening inning and never looked back in a 12-2 baseball victory over Bluffton on May 21.

The Panthers added another run in the second inning and three more in the third to build a commanding 10-2 lead before closing out the game with two runs in the fifth.

Ridge Hunt earned the complete-game victory for Paulding, allowing just two hits and one earned run while striking out eight and walking one over five innings.

Jaegar Crawfis suffered the loss for Bluffton after surrendering six earned runs on six hits in the opening inning. Evan Blue, Blayne Hill and Robby Taylor also pitched in relief for the Pirates.

Easton Lehman paced the Panthers offensively with three singles, a run scored and three RBI. Zachary Barton added a single, double, two runs and two RBI, while Grady Arend collected two singles and scored three times.

Wes Grindstaff doubled and drove in two runs for Paulding. Colten Hunt singled and had an RBI, Stroker Etter added a single, two runs and an RBI, and Grady Barton chipped in with a single, run scored and RBI. Ridge Hunt crossed the plate twice and Tyler Goyings also scored.

Bluffton managed just two hits in the contest. William Hoover singled and scored, while Dylan Painter had a single and RBI. Parker Lovell also scored a run for the Pirates.

### WAUSEON WALKS OFF WAYNE TRACE IN SEVENTH

WAUSEON — Wauseon pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the seventh inning to edge Wayne Trace 6-5 in a non-league baseball matchup on May 21.

The Raiders jumped out quickly with four runs in the top of the first inning, but Wauseon answered with three runs in the bottom half and tied the game with another run in the second.

After several scoreless innings, Wayne Trace regained the lead with a run in the sixth, only to see Wauseon respond with a tying run in the bottom of the inning before scoring the game-winner in the seventh.

Cam Sherman earned the

win for Wauseon after allowing one earned run on four hits over five innings while striking out three and walking none. Jack Altstaetter and Kahle Albright also pitched in relief for the Indians.

Caden Sinn took the loss for Wayne Trace in relief. The Raiders also used Deklyn Schweinsberg, Micah Sinn, Jonathan Sterrett and Carter Clemens on the mound.

Jack Schoenauer led the Wayne Trace offense with a single, double and home run while scoring twice and driving in two runs. Caden Sinn added a single and RBI, while Blake Noggle contributed a single and RBI. Brody Rosswurm, Jonathan Sterrett and Carter Clemens each scored a run.

Wauseon collected 10 hits in the victory, led by Thad Reckner with two singles, a double and a run scored. Kahle Albright added two singles, a run and an RBI, while Maddox Schneider had a single, run scored and RBI. Izaak Conrad doubled and scored, Brody Balsler singled and scored, and Lane Schindler added a single and RBI. Rico Vazquez and Cedric Taylor also drove in runs for the Indians.

(Continued from Page 5)

the fifth.

Hunt earned the win, allowing two hits and one earned run while walking five. Colten Hunt worked one inning of scoreless relief with two strikeouts, and Jackson Griffith finished the final 1-2/3 innings without allowing a hit while striking out two.

Andrew Cooley took the loss for Delphos Jefferson, giving up five hits and three earned runs in three innings. Dalton Ditto threw the final three innings, allowing three runs, one earned, on three hits.

Stroker Etter led the Paulding offense with two singles, a run and an RBI. Nick Baughman added a double, while Colten Hunt, Grady Arend, Zachary Barton, Grady Barton and Griffith each singled. Zachary Barton also scored a run and drove in one, while Ridge Hunt scored twice.

Lucas Millmine and Isaac Rostorfer had the two hits for Delphos Jefferson, with Rostorfer driving in Luke Rode for the Wildcats' only run.

### LATE RALLY SENDS LITTLE JOHNNIES PAST PAULDING IN REGIONAL OPENER

MANSFIELD — The

Paulding Lady Panthers saw a memorable postseason run come to an end Tuesday afternoon as Johnstown-Monroe used an eight-run seventh inning to pull away for a 14-3 victory in the OHSAA Division V Softball Regional Opener at Clear Fork High School.

Despite the final score, the game remained competitive deep into the contest. Paulding entered the seventh inning trailing just 6-3 and had the top of its batting order due up before the Johnstown-Monroe offense broke the game open with its late surge.

Johnstown-Monroe scored two runs in each of the first two innings to build an early 4-0 advantage. The Lady Panthers responded in the bottom of the second when Luci Martinez scored to cut the deficit to 4-1. Paulding added another run in the third and another in the fourth, trimming the lead to 4-3 and keeping pressure on the regional opponent.

The Johnnies added single runs in the fifth and sixth innings to extend the margin to 6-3 before erupting for eight runs in the seventh to seal the victory.

Paulding collected eight

(Continued on Page 8)

# Free Friday

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

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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

Redeem this coupon for  **1-FREE Medium Fiske French Fry\*** at the 2026 Paulding County 4-H Fair on **"Fry" day, June 12th only**

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FREE SAUSAGE SANDWICH COUPONS SUPPORT PAULDING COUNTY FFA

# THE LEFT TURN



Kody Swanson winner of the Little 500. Photo Credit: Doran Racing.

By: Ron Burt

ANDERSON, Ind., May 20th Kody Swanson was honored as the #1 driver of 2025 by the National Pavement Sprint Car Rankings. On Saturday night he put an exclamation mark on that honor by winning his fourth Little 500 at Anderson Speedway in Doran Racing's Wilke Orthodontics/Glenn Farms No. 77 asphalt sprint car. Swanson took command of the 33 car field and led the first 158 laps before pitting and falling to 10th, he battled back, passed Davey Hamilton Jr. on the frontstretch on lap 473, and led the last 28 laps of the 78th annual Little 500 for his Ohio based team's first victory in the biggest pavement sprint car race in the world. Swanson won this race in 2016, 2018, and 2019. The top 5 finishers were 1st Kody Swanson, 2nd Davey Hamilton Jr., 3rd Dakoda Armstrong, 4th Jake Trainor, and 5th Mario Clouser.

On May 22nd at Toledo Speedway the feature winners were Mike young in the Late Model Sportsmen division, this was his 2nd feature victory of the season and Josh Bunting won Factory Stocks feature.

Thursday, May 28, 2026, Wayne County Speedway in Orrville, Ohio, the World of Outlaw Late Model Series made a stop, with all the national stars in attendance. 45 cars showed up to compete in the Lone Wolf 40, paying \$12,000.00 to win the feature. Going into tonight's event Brandon Sheppard has raced in 4 World of Outlaw Late Model events at Wayne County Speedway and has won 3.

Nick Hoffman set quick time tonight with a 16.012. The Outlaws had 4 qualifying heat races. Heat winners were Nick Hoffman, Daulton Wilson, Ricky Thornton Jr, and

Hudson O'Neal. After the re-draw Ricky Thornton Jr. won the pole for the feature and Daulton Wilson started on the outside of the front row. The top 4 from each heat race made the feature. Kyle Moore, the 2025 track champion at Wayne County Speedway, was in heat 4 and finished 8th out of the 11 car field. In the Last Chance Showdown race to make the feature Moore started 8th and could only work his way up to 5th, his Late Model night is over, but he will race his Modified and that feature pays \$2,000.00 to win.

Ricky Thornton Jr. won the 40 lap event and had the \$12,000.00 payday tonight. Nick Hoffman started 4th and was able to move up to 2nd. Rounding out tonight's podium, Bobby Pierce. He fought hard to work his way up from 8th to finish 3rd. All these drivers will be back tomorrow and Saturday night racing on the newly redone ½ mile Mansfield Speedway. It was good meeting several of you from Defiance, Van Wert and Bryan that made the trip over to Orrville tonight. Wave me down, I'm always happy to talk racing if you see me.

Some upcoming races you should have on your calendar would be Ohio Sprint Week featuring the All Star Circuit of Champions and anyone that races a 410 Outlaw Winged Sprint Car. Ohio Sprint Week will have 8 races and one open date for a makeup if needed because of weather. Tracks include 6/12 Attica, 6/13 Sharon, 6/14 Millstream, 6/15 Wayne County, 6/16 Eldora, 6/17 Rain Date, 6/18 Waynesfield, 6/19 Fremont and 6/20 Atomic. First place prize money is \$7,500.00 to win at each track but the last race at Atomic Speedway will pay the winner \$10,000.00.

Flat Rock Speedway(as-

phlt) will run the rescheduled 100 lap Joy Fair 100 for ARCA Outlaw Super Late Models June 6th. Fans will get a bonus. The Turn 1 CRA Pro Series will also be at Flat Rock for a 125 lap feature event.

The 500 Sprint Car Tour Series (asphalt) will take to the high banks of Toledo Speedway, Sunday, June 14th at 3PM. Many of these drivers competed against each other at the recent Little 500 at Anderson Speedway. Anderson is a ¼ mile oval and Toledo is a half mile track. The race teams will need to adjust as the cars will reach higher speeds with more room to race at Toledo. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz

(Continued from Page 7)

hits in the game, led by Madison Clark, who doubled twice while driving in a run and scoring once. Mariah Klopfenstein and Delaney Johanns each recorded two-hit games, with Johanns driving in a run. Tia Mendez added an RBI single, while Luci Martinez singled and scored a run.

Johnstown-Monroe finished with 16 hits. Addy Zak paced the offense with three singles, a double, three runs scored and two RBIs. Jenna Hochanadel added three singles, two runs scored and five RBIs, while Lucia Kuhn contributed a home run and two RBIs. Violet Wentzel collected three singles and three RBIs in the win.

Kuhn earned the complete-game victory, allowing three runs, two earned, on eight hits while striking out six and walking one. Mendez took the loss for Paulding after pitching all seven innings.

Following the game, Paulding head coach Jeff Clark praised his team's effort throughout the tournament run.

"Unfortunately the Lady Panthers ended their season today against Johnstown-Monroe at Clear Fork High School," Clark said. "The final score sure wasn't any indication of the game. Going into the seventh inning we were down 6-3 with the top of our order coming in at bat. They went on to have a big rally and scored eight runs."

"Nobody wants to get beat, but at the end of the tournament there will only be one winning team in each division and I'm extremely proud of our girls for making it this far and proving their talents," Clark continued. "They represented their school and community with pride and class. Tia's pitching was dominant throughout the tournament games and our defense behind her was tremendous. Unfortunately today we had a lot of hits that were right at them."

Clark also acknowledged the contributions of seniors Tia Mendez and Sam Leal.

"Seniors Tia Mendez and Sam Leal will be sorely missed next year, but we are looking for big things from our returning players," he said. "We would like to thank the school and community for all of the support. It was felt by each of us and very appreciated."

The loss ends a successful postseason journey for the Lady Panthers, who captured sectional and district championships before advancing to regional competition.

# ANDRES O'NEIL & LOWE INSURANCE AGENCY EARNS AUTO-OWNERS SAPPHIRE AGENCY AWARD



From left to right: Jamie Whisnant (Auto-Owners Chairman & CEO), Steve Speicher (Auto-Owners Regional Vice President), Dayna Fegley-Vaas (Auto-Owners Underwriting Manager), Kate Cooper (Andres O'Neil & Lowe Personal Lines Manager), Beth Pool (Andres O'Neil & Lowe Managing Partner), Russ Davies (Andres O'Neil & Lowe Managing Partner), Tanner Wyse (Andres O'Neil & Lowe Sales Manager), and Andrew Renner (Auto-Owners Marketing Representative).

Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency is proud to announce it has received the Auto-Owners Insurance Sapphire Agency Award, the company's highest recognition for growth. The agency earned this distinction by ranking as the top Auto-Owners agency in the state of Ohio—a remarkable achievement that reflects the dedication of their team and the trust of their growing client community.

With six convenient locations across Northwest Ohio — in Archbold, Bryan, Defiance, Hicksville, Montpelier, and Wauseon — Andres O'Neil & Lowe has built a reputation for providing personalized insurance solutions to families and businesses throughout the region. This

marks the second consecutive year the agency has claimed this honor, making back-to-back Sapphire Awards a powerful testament to their consistent excellence and sustained growth.

"Winning the Sapphire Award again energizes our entire team," said Kevin Morton, Owner of Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency. "This recognition belongs to every one of our staff members who show up every day with a genuine desire to help our clients protect what matters most. We're grateful to our communities across NW Ohio for the trust they place in us, and we'll keep working hard to earn it."

The Sapphire Agency Award is presented by Auto-Owners Insurance to agencies

that demonstrate exceptional performance in growing their book of business while upholding the highest standards of customer service. Being named the top agency in Ohio speaks not only to the volume of new clients served, but to the quality of guidance the team provides along the way.

Andres O'Neil & Lowe Insurance Agency looks forward to continuing to serve Northwest Ohio with the same passion and personal touch that has defined the agency for years. To learn more or to connect with a local agent, visit any of the agency's six locations or reach out through their website.

For more information, visit [www.andresoneilandlowe.com](http://www.andresoneilandlowe.com).

## WAYNE TRACE OUTLASTS LINCOLNVIEW IN NINE INNINGS TO ADVANCE

NAPOLEON — Wayne Trace battled through a tense nine-inning tournament showdown Tuesday evening, scoring two runs in the top of the ninth to defeat Lincolnview 7-5 in an OHSAA Division VI sectional contest at Napoleon.

The victory improved the Raiders to 13-11 on the season and earned them a date with Marion Local at Upper Scioto Valley. Lincolnview closed its season with a strong 19-8 record.

Wayne Trace collected 12 hits and played error-free baseball in a game that featured several momentum swings before the Raiders finally broke through in extra innings.

The Raiders struck first with a run in the opening inning, but Lincolnview answered immediately and then took a 2-1 lead in the second. Wayne Trace regained momentum with a pair of runs in the fourth and two more in the fifth, only to see Lincolnview respond with a three-run fourth inning to keep the game tight.

After six innings, the teams were deadlocked at 5-5. Neither side could push across a run in the seventh or eighth innings, sending the contest into extra frames.

In the top of the ninth, Wayne Trace finally broke the stalemate. The Raiders plated two runs and then shut the

door in the bottom half of the inning to secure the 7-5 victory.

Jonathan Sterrett led the Wayne Trace offense, recording two singles and driving in three runs. Caden Sinn also contributed two singles, scored a run, and knocked in another. Jack Schoenauer collected two singles, scored once, and drove in a run, while Brody Rosswurm doubled and scored twice.

Ryan Cluts added a single and two RBIs for the Raiders. Tanner Laukhuf finished with two singles, Carter Clemens singled and scored, and Carter Baumle added a hit and a run scored. Jensen Beining also crossed the plate.

Lincolnview managed six hits on the evening. Holden Price paced the Lancers with two singles and two RBIs, while Chayse Overholt added two singles and scored a run. Gavin Evans tripled and drove in a run, Evan Rahrigh singled, scored, and had an RBI, and Jackson Ingledue scored twice.

Wayne Trace used three pitchers in the win. Carter

Clemens started and worked 3½ innings, allowing five runs on four hits while issuing six walks. Deklyn Schweinsberg followed with 2½ scoreless innings, surrendering one hit and striking out one. Sinn earned the victory in relief, tossing the final 3½ innings and allowing just one hit while keeping Lincolnview off the scoreboard.

Overholt took the loss despite a strong effort for Lincolnview. He pitched 8½ innings, striking out nine while allowing seven runs on 10 hits. Gavin Evans recorded the final out in relief.

With the win, Wayne Trace advances to face Marion Local on Friday, May 29, at Upper Scioto Valley with a regional berth on the line.

## PAULDING FALLS TO LIBERTY-BENTON 3-2 IN DISTRICT TOURNAMENT BATTLE

BLUFFTON — Paulding's baseball season came to a close Wednesday as the Panthers dropped a hard-fought 3-2 decision to Liberty-Benton in an OHSAA Division V

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district tournament matchup at Bluffton.

The Panthers finished with eight hits compared to five for Liberty-Benton, but the Eagles capitalized on early opportunities and held off a late Paulding rally to advance.

Liberty-Benton took control early, scoring two runs in the bottom of the first inning to grab a 2-0 lead. Paulding answered in the top of the third when Wes Grindstaff scored and Colten Hunt delivered an RBI single to cut the deficit to 2-1.

The Panthers evened the score in the fifth inning. Grindstaff reached base and eventually crossed the plate on an RBI single by Ridge Hunt, tying the game at 2-2.

Liberty-Benton responded immediately in the bottom half of the inning. The Eagles manufactured what proved to be the game-winning run, taking a 3-2 lead they would not relinquish.

Paulding threatened throughout the contest, finishing with eight hits, but Liberty-Benton pitcher Kooper Leatherman worked out of trouble repeatedly. After Leatherman exited, Jackson Knepper shut the door with two perfect innings of relief to earn the save.

Grindstaff led the Panthers offensively with two singles and scored both of Paulding's runs. Colten Hunt collected two singles and an RBI, while Ridge Hunt added two singles and an RBI of his own. Grady Arend and Zachary Barton each contributed a single.

Liberty-Benton was led by Zach Eichert, who doubled, scored a run, and drove in another. Isaac Schworm added an RBI single, while Connor Barbara, Taden Troyer, and

Jackson Knepper each recorded singles. Reid Irwin and Grady Latta also scored runs for the Eagles.

Leatherman earned the win for Liberty-Benton, allowing two earned runs on eight hits over five innings while striking out eight and walking none. Knepper pitched the final two innings without allowing a hit and struck out two.

Colten Hunt turned in a strong effort on the mound for Paulding despite taking the loss. The senior worked six innings, allowing five hits and three runs while striking out five and walking just one.

Although the season ended one game short of a district championship, the Panthers battled until the final out against a strong Liberty-Benton squad, finishing their tournament run with another competitive postseason performance.

**PAULDING ELEMENTARY 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26**

*\*Denotes all A's*

*\*\*Denotes all A's all year*

**THIRD GRADE:**

*Mrs. Doster* - \*Logan Crossland, \*Audrina Vance, Tobias Bolter, Rhett Iliff, Kyrie Jack, Ariya Lockwood, Valentina Tellez Munoz

*Mrs. Agler* - \*Hendrix Carlisle, \*Essie Deel, \*Declan Pittman, \*Emberly VanVlerah, \*\*Ilah Zimmerman, Bayne Dasher, Ayra Dunakin, Kenley Miller, Harper Snyder, Braylee Tempel

*Mrs. Rohlf* - \*Kyra Mead, \*Maddox Wolfe, Nicholas Anderson, William Arend, Mason Eddy, Vincent Grinnell, Kinsley Kohlhorst

**FOURTH GRADE:**

*Mrs. Miles* - \*\*Quynn Arend, \*Brooklyn Boecker, \*Rayna Carpenter, \*Lute Gross, \*Meela Jones, \*\*Gwen Laboe, \*Cole Mangette, \*\*Aubrey Manz, \*Edison Manz, \*Kaylee Powell, \*Adrie Smith, Brian Perez Escobar, Wyatt Wilhelm

*Miss Jimenez* - \*Elizabeth Chapman, \*Dean Font, \*Sebastian Houck, \*Carl Kosch, \*Nora Rosalez, \*Sophia Spangler, \*Hudson Stork, Gabby Andrews, Molly Eckhart, Keatyn Manz, Rylee Sexton-Scott, Marshall Wilhelm, Liah Wiswell, Rowan Witkowski

*Mr. Harder* - \*Da'Lonn Banks, \*Ellie Branch, \*\*Adeline Brown, \*Mason Horner, \*Ryker Johnson, \*Natalie Mericle, \*Trent Reinhart, \*Chance Turner, \*Emma Sue Walz, \*Everett Wilhelm, Mattison Clevinger, Mason Hogans, Eliza Monfette, Payton Schroeder

**FIFTH GRADE:**

*Mr. Beckman* - \*Braxton Dasher, \*Boston Foltz, \*Lilly Thomas, Mari Adams, Dulce Galeana Monterrubio, Ella Hale, Kolby Ringler, Logan Schuchart, Emma Steingass, Merlia Veliz Jimenez

*Mrs. Stoller* - \*Evelyn Dangler, \*Grace Laboe, \*Abby Leal, \*Ellie Niemasz, Natalee Bittinger, Miracle Eustler, Chloe Gonzales, Angel Marcos Lara, Tino Martinez, Glen Smith, Ashlynn Vance

*Mrs. Richards* - \*\*Nora Gochenour, \*\*Harlow Kipfer, \*Jacob Shaffer, \*Merrick Wolfe, Elizabeth Cortes Becerra, Caydius Dobbelaere, Landyn Harshman, Jesse Hull, Alonzo Miles, Noah Miller, Jayden Perfecto, Brayden Ramirez

Cortes, Madison Salisbury, Keagan Willis

**OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26**

*\*Denotes all A's*

*\*\*Denotes all A's All Year*

**Mrs. Schroeder 1A:**

Ruby Adams, Lucy Chaney, Demi Dobbelaere, Tyce Ducheny\*\*, Everett Logan\*, Caroline Niese, Jafet Quevedo, Harbor Stahl\*\*, Thomas Varner\*\*, Ember Woodruff.

**Miss Estle 2B:**

Jackson Custer, Vincenzo D'Ambrosia, Greyson Hostettler, Briahlyn Kauser, Emma Kisor, Hunter Kittle Sessford, Camaro Oberlin, Oaklyn Plotts, Stephanie Schlatter\*, Arlowe Shirk, Ella Sifuentes, Evan VanCleve\*\*.

**Miss March 2A:**

Kaeson Alvarado, Tobi Daenens, Barrett Damman, Oliver Havert, Gabe Kisor, Preston Lambert, Sadie Manz, Savannah Manz\*, Dallas Schlatter, Slade Schlegel, Eric Thomas, Nora VanCleve\*, Paisley Varner\*, Savannah Wagner.

**Mrs. Siefker 2B:**

Jaxson Courtney, Sabrina Lane\*, Juan Pablo Mendoza\*, Jimmie Pumphrey\*, Jeremiah Schlatter\*\*, Cohen Sherry, Allie Stork\*\*, Karter Walters.

**Mrs. Thornell 3A:**

Coal Etter\*, Emerson Gamble\*\*, Hadley Mohr, Macklen Osting\*, Bentlee Pack, Jakob Stahl\*, Landen Vorlicky, Wyatt Zeedyk.

**Miss Tressler 3B:**

Evan Blockberger\*\*, Axl Breckler, Izzy Carlisle\*, Zane Grant, Mia Heier\*, Leo Krabill, Carson Parker\*, Mila

The West Bend News

**Sudoku Puzzle**

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

Rios, Titus Tenwalde\*.

**Mrs. Hohlbein 4A:**

Zevy Adkins, Lee Bradford\*, Lucia Burghart, Cameron Manz, Kasha Manz\*\*, Donald Mendoza, Daniel Schlatter\*\*, Elena Schlatter\*\*, Evan Taylor, Henley Wagner.

**Mrs. Bockrath 4B:**

Lillian Grunden, Marshall Fife\*, Rylie Grant, Garrett Holt, Calla Manz\*\*, Carly Manz, Quintin Manz, Caleb McClure, Frank Morris, Aspynn Shirk, Owen Steffes, Haven Wagner\*, Briar Witchey.

**Mrs. Limber 5A:**

Luke Collard, Jade Fraley, Maverick Jewell, Jaxson

King, Mackenzie Lee, Mal-lerie Rohda, Easton Stork, Evan Thomas.

**Mrs. Sizemore 5B:**

Hunter Booth, Aliah Fenter, Addison Clemens, Bailey Heath, Alex Manz\*, River Stahl, Samuel Stahl\*, Ella Taylor\*.

**Miss Brimmer 6A:**

Kirsten Blockberger, Ryder Dotson\*, Audrey Etter, Osiris Felicano Rosas, Trevor Manz, Tierney Tenwalde.

**Mr. Ellerbrock 6B:**

Zoey Chaney\*, Emma Feeney, Molly Halter\*\*, Kennedy Manz\*\*, Brielle Schlatter\*, Josh Schlatter\*\*



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## PAULDING EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOLS HONORS RETIREES AND LONGTIME STAFF AT ANNUAL APPRECIATION BREAKFAST



Pictured L-R: Nancy Wilcox, Butch Raub, Lance Estle, Melissa Harder, Jon Snodgrass, Eric Deisler. Missing: Michele Boundy, Kristy Bradford, Barb Konopka, Dave Smith.

PEVS held their annual staff appreciation and recognition breakfast on May 20. Those being recognized for their service to PEVS this year are as follows:

**30 Years of Service:**  
Tom Bidlack, Shawn Brewer

### Retirees:

Michele Boundy, custodian - 28 1/2 years; Kristy Bradford, Tech teacher - 25 years; Eric Deisler, JH Principal - 29 years; Lance Estle, Phys Ed/Health/Intervention Specialist - 28 years; Melissa Harder, HS Social Studies

teacher - 32 years; Barb Konopka, custodian - 21 1/2 years; Harold 'Butch' Raub, bus driver - 14 years; Dave Smith, bus driver - 17 years; Jon Snodgrass, JH History teacher - 34 years; Nancy Wilcox, bus driver/cafe worker - 26 years

## DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS \$10,000 GRANT TO IGNITE ACADEMY FOR MOBILE WELDING INITIATIVE



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Haden Fowler - Junior at Defiance High School (DHS), Alex Fox - Junior at DHS, Rita Kissner - DAF grants committee member and Remi Carreto - Senior at DHS.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) awarded a \$10,000 grant to Ignite Academy during the 2026 Spring Grant Cycle through the Defiance County Capital Projects Fund, under their umbrella. The funding will support

Ignite Academy's Mobile Welding Workforce Initiative, which will bring hands-on welding training directly into schools, businesses, and community settings through portable mobile welding units. The initiative aims to in-

troduce students to welding skills, safety practices, and career opportunities in the skilled trades while helping strengthen the future workforce pipeline across Defiance County.

## PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

### Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

**Shane A. Leininger** of Defiance, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of criminal damaging. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$168 in court costs. Leininger was sentenced to 90 days in jail, with 88 days suspended. Special conditions include payment of \$400 restitution to victim A.C. and \$250 restitution to Z.R., signing a release of information, and probation monitoring compliance through December 18, 2026. A related criminal damaging charge was dismissed.

**Waqas A. Khan** of Essex, Ontario, was convicted of operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Clayton T. Dove** of Columbus, Ohio, was convicted of

speeding and driving with a license less than six months old. He was fined \$45 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs on the speeding charge and fined \$70 on the license violation. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Kristopher R. Essex** of Payne, Ohio, was convicted of assured clear distance ahead. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Brian M. Ford** of Defiance, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under suspension. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Special conditions include proof of insurance provided. In a related case, Ford was also convicted of speeding and was fined \$100.

**Bert A. Hofmeister** of Hicksville, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of fishing without a license. He was fined \$83 and ordered to

pay \$87 in court costs.

**Stacy R. South** of Amarillo, Texas, was convicted of a permit violation. She was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Joshua K. Clark** of Paulding, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of driving under a financial responsibility suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Cody D. Spencer** of Defiance, Ohio, was convicted of failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**John J. Meyer** of Cincinnati, Ohio, was convicted of improper backing. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**William W. Adams** of Paulding, Ohio, was convicted of a traffic device/sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Coltin K. Wroblewski** of Antwerp, Ohio, entered a no contest plea and was convicted of disorderly conduct. He was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$128 in court costs. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Venancio Cardenas** of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of unauthorized use of property. He was fined \$100 and or-

dered to pay \$113 in court costs. Cardenas was sentenced to 180 days in jail. Special conditions include payment of all fines and costs and maintaining general good behavior.

**Taylor N. Shull** of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of driving while texting. Shull was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Claude Kagiraneza** of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was convicted of a prohibited turn violation. He was fined \$150. The case was waived by the defendant.

**Venancio Cardenas** of Antwerp, Ohio, was convicted of operating a vehicle under the influence. He was fined \$1,040 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Cardenas was sentenced to 180 days in jail and received an operator's license suspension from May 5, 2026, through May 5, 2031. Special conditions include jail days to be served concurrently with case 26CRB89.

**Matthew B. Ross** of Demossville, Kentucky, was convicted of a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs. The case was waived by the defendant.

## PAULDING COUNTY BAC FOCUSES ON STRENGTHENING CAREER PATHWAYS AND WORKFORCE READINESS

The Paulding County Business Advisory Council (BAC) Steering Committee convened this week to continue its collaborative work strengthening connections between local schools, higher education partners, employers, and workforce organizations. The committee's ongoing focus includes expanding career pathways, enhancing educator engagement, and identifying new opportunities to support students while building a strong, future-ready workforce across Paulding County.

A central topic of discussion was the continued integration of Career Technical Education (CTE) into local workforce pipelines. Members reviewed the success of last summer's CAN program and explored additional initiatives with strong potential for replication and expansion as the county works to meet long-term workforce needs.

Council members also examined current workforce readiness efforts and the value of existing training programs. Healthcare partners highlighted the sustained demand for medical training and shared updates on new grant opportunities that could support program growth. Apprenticeship development remains a priority, with Vantage Career Center and regional partners exploring new apprenticeship partnerships.

Mike Burkholder, with the regional office of Workforce Development, will assist in aligning employer needs with student opportunities as expectations for both pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways are defined.

Antwerp Local School Curriculum Director Elyse Boyer provided updates for their school I complying with the new Ohio Department of Education requirements for CTE, noting that middle school students must now have access to career exploration and career-based learning activities. Boyer shared that programming in com-

## CHILDRESS AWARDED CENTRAL LOCAL TRADE SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP THROUGH DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION



Congratulations to Olivia Childress, recipient of the Central Local Trade School Scholarship Fund through the Defiance Area Foundation.

Established by Bonnie Burgbacher in 2024, this scholarship was created to encourage students pursuing vocational and technical careers to follow their passions and build meaningful futures through skilled trades.

Bonnie's own journey reflects a lifelong dedication to hard work, education, and perseverance. A graduate of Fairview High School and Northwest State Community College, Bonnie spent 57 years

at Spangler Candy Company before retiring in 2020. Through this scholarship, she hopes to support students as they take the next step toward careers in fields such as electrical work, cosmetology, dental hygiene, and other specialized trades.

Olivia was selected by the Defiance Area Foundation Scholarship Committee and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to continue her education and pursue her goals. Congratulations, Olivia, and thank you to Bonnie for investing in the future of local students and workforce development throughout our community.

puter science, agriculture, marketing, design, and robotics continues to grow. CTE continues to expand across all local districts.

Hands-on learning remains a cornerstone of student engagement. Business presentations, demonstrations, and countywide events such as Career Day continue to expose students to a wide range of career options. Several employers emphasized the importance of job shadowing as a prerequisite for student applicants, reinforcing the value of real-world experience.

Vantage Career Center shared updates on student engagement and upcoming discussions with local schools. Educators participating in the upcoming Career Connection Educator Day Camp will receive additional support in teaching soft skills and connecting classroom instruction to workforce expectations.

The BAC also reviewed several upcoming opportunities, including:

- Teacher Boot Camp and

Career Connection Educator Day Camp — June 1–5

- Business & Education participation at the Paulding County Fair — June 6–13

• Leadership development, technical experiences, and youth engagement programs offered this summer by Northwest State Community College and Rhodes State College

In closing the meeting, Scott Strahley, representing the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, shared new ideas for a countywide America 250 celebration in conjunction with John Paulding Days. Plans include a Community Day picnic on the courthouse lawn on July 11, with hopes for school and student participation, as well as an enhanced parade featuring a bike-decorating contest.

The Paulding County BAC Steering Committee remains committed to strengthening partnerships, expanding opportunities for students, and supporting the long-term workforce needs of the county.

## PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

### New Schedule For Large Villages

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

### New Schedule For Smaller Villages

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

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

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ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS

individuals were reported in the parking lot of Antwerp Manor. An officer responded and identified the two individuals, who were seeking a ride to another village. The officer transported them.

On May 21, an officer observed a junk ordinance violation at a residence on N. Main St. The owner will be sent a notice.

On May 22 a person reported that their son had dropped \$71 near Marathon. A short time later the caller contacted police again and reported that the money had been found.

On May 23 a resident of Canal St. reported that someone was banging on doors and windows before running away. The juveniles involved were located and a report was prepared.

On May 24 an employee of the Sunoco gas station reported that someone was sleeping in a vehicle and requested an officer check on the individual. The officer responded and determined everything was okay.

On May 25 a suspected fire was reported at the Antwerp wastewater treatment plant. An officer responded and contacted utility personnel.

On May 25 the Antwerp Police Department received a report of a possible violation of a protection order. A report was completed and forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

On May 25 the Antwerp Police Department received a report of an alleged rape. The case was investigated and a report was forwarded to the prosecutor's office.

On May 25 a resident reported receiving emails from their bank regarding a fraud case.

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

(Continued from Page 1)



Stephen Reinhard Region 7

wealth of knowledge and experience to the AgCredit Board. McClure operates his own grain and livestock operation. Reinhard is both a self-employed farmer and operates his own seed company. In addition to his experience on AgCredit's board, he also serves as the Crawford County Treasurer.

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!!

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE: 7+ homes packed with great deals and hidden treasures. Countryside Estates, Paulding. June 5 & 6; 8am to 5pm

FOR SALE: Upright antique piano, bench and music cabinet. Piano has new keys on it and will be tuned after it is delivered to buyer. Can be seen at Nick Longardner's. \$200 obo. For more information call 419-670-5098.

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

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

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

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.

HUGE MULTI-FAMILY NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE: 15084 Bowman Street - Paulding. Located just off SR 613 - 2 3/4 miles east of SR 127 (Hedges) WATCH FOR SIGNS. June 4, 5, 6 from 9:00 to 5:00. Packed with bargains and unexpected finds! Clothes and shoes for adults & kids, toys, tools, TV, push mower, cross-country ski, humidifier & dehumidifier, household items, Avon Cape Cod Ruby Red glassware, collectable glass baskets, Hallmark ornaments and LOTS of miscellaneous treasures! Great variety and something for everyone!

RAIN TECH SEAMLESS GUTTERS, 419-258-1818 22-24

AgCredit's Board of Directors includes eight members elected by stockholders; the remaining three are appointees to ensure diversity and a range of experience.



Peter Paras Outside Director

The board also appointed a new outside director, Peter Paras of Hinckley, OH. Peter Paras brings more than 40 years of executive leadership experience as a founder, CEO, and board director, with a proven track record of building, scaling, and successfully exiting multiple companies. His career spans healthcare, technology, and industrial sectors, including leadership roles guiding companies through turnaround strategies, growth, and strategic acquisitions. His experience will bring a new perspective to AgCredit's Board of Directors.

The 18 members of AgCredit's Nominating Committee - one representing each of the 18 Revised Ohio counties that AgCredit serves - identify the candidates to fill any seats that may be open on the Board of Directors. A list of the 2026 Nominating Committee members can be found on our website.

A cooperative lender, AgCredit is a proud member of the Farm Credit System that was created more than 100

years ago to provide a reliable source of funding for the nation's farmers and ranchers. AgCredit supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and financial services.

For more information, please visit www.agcredit.net.

WT GROVER HILL ELEM 4th NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

THIRD GRADE: All As - Aliyah Duer, Levi Laukhuf, Tessa Stoller, Kanin May, Brookelyn Plummer, Izabella Hicks

All A/B's - Elizabeth Baksa, Tobias Beining, Grayson Bocook, Owen Densmore, Addelynn Okang, Kolby Reichert, Venna Ruble, Tatum Treece, Dale Clutter, Harper Hogue, Emmelynn Okang, Kaylee Stoller, Henry Thomas, Lucas Wilcox, Jose Roque Vargas

FOURTH GRADE: All As - Avalyn Beining, Natalie Heier, Clara Laukhuf, Emily McClure, California Nieto, Nelliel Orona, Grace-lynn Shelton, Weslen Tucker, Kipton Jay, Aizlee Ricker, Kinsley Sinn, Mason Stoller, Bentley Wright

All A/B's - Skylar Drummond, Skyler Goins, Collin Miller, Ari Ludwig, Sloane Sinn

All B's - Verra Kessler FIFTH GRADE: All As - Emery LaBounty, Addilyn Noffsinger, Aleyah Stoller, Aden Stoller

All A/B's - Landyn Miller, Allison Rojas Palma, Gabe Schlatter, Damien Selzer, Tyler Baksa, Katelyn Plummer, Clara Porter, Kollin Reichert, Sophia Rhodes-Varner

All B's - Bode Roth SIXTH GRADE: All As - Chandler Sinn, Jayde Sinn, Mia Kamphaus, Brianna McClure, Jase Miller, Alirah Ricker, Austine Stoller, Lyla Stoller

All A/B's - Sophie Donaldson, Jude Miller, Dakota Miner, Sophia Canfield, Allison Donaldson, Evan Heier, Jaxon Porter, Gaberial Spangler

WT GROVER HILL ELEM ALL YEAR HONOR ROLL 2025/26

THIRD GRADE: All As - Aliyah Duer, Levi Laukhuf, Tessa Stoller, Kanin May, Brookelyn Plummer

All A/B's - Elizabeth Baksa, Tobias Beining, Grayson Bocook, Owen Densmore, Addelynn Okang, Kolby Reichert, Venna Ruble, Tatum Treece, Dale Clutter, Harper Hogue, Diego Morales, Emmelynn Okang, Kaylee Stoller

FOURTH GRADE: All As - Clara Laukhuf, Gracelynn Shelton, Kipton Jay, Aizlee Ricker, Kinsley Sinn, Mason Stoller

All A/B's - Avalyn Beining, Skyler Goins, Natalie Heier, Emily McClure, Collin Miller, California Nieto, Nelliel Orona, Weslen Tucker, Sloane Sinn, Bentley Wright

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: 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

Sudoku grid with numbers 2-9 in a 9x9 layout.

Sudoku solution from page 9

ing, Skyler Goins, Natalie Heier, Emily McClure, Collin Miller, California Nieto, Nelliel Orona, Weslen Tucker, Sloane Sinn, Bentley Wright

FIFTH GRADE: All As - Emery LaBounty, Addilyn Noffsinger, Aleyah Stoller

All A/B's - Landyn Miller, Allison Rojas Palma, Gabe Schlatter, Katelyn Plummer, Aden Stoller

All A/B's - Bode Roth SIXTH GRADE: All As - Jase Miller, Austin Stoller, Lyla Stoller

All A/B's - Evan Heier, Mia Kamphaus, Brianna McClure, Alirah Ricker, Chandler Sinn, Jayde Sinn

PAULDING COUNTY SARAH JO HARPEL CLERK OF COURTS 2026 APR 21 PM 3:47 Circumstances. You are required to answer the complaint within 28 days after the last date of publication of this Notice, which will be published once a week for six (6) consecutive weeks, the date of the last publication will be on June 1, 2026 and the 28 days for answer will commence on that date. If you fail to answer or otherwise respond within the time stated, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. -Sarah Jo Harpel, Clerk Common Pleas Court of Paulding County, Ohio

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

HELP WANTED: Innovative Assembly Services, LLC 109 Victory Lane, Antwerp, OH 45813 Phone: 419-399-3886 Email: InnovativeAssemblySvcscs@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

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

# PAULDING COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM ANNOUNCES 2026 QUILT SHOW



Pictured is the beautiful quilted wall hanging that will be raffled during the 2026 Quilt Show at the Paulding County History Museum. The piece was generously donated by Red Barn Quiltery of Monroeville, Indiana, with raffle proceeds helping support museum programming and events during Quilt Show week.

The Paulding County History Museum is excited to announce its 2026 Quilt Show, continuing a cherished local tradition celebrating the artistry, craftsmanship, and history of quilting in Paulding County. Now in its second year at

the museum, the event carries forward a long-running quilt show tradition originally started by the Patchwork Pals, a sewing and quilting group from Paulding County Hospital, which was previously held during the Flat Rock Fall Festival.

Visitors will enjoy a beautiful display of traditional, modern, and artistic quilts showcased throughout the museum.

The free event will run Monday, June 8 through Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily at the Paulding County History Museum, located at 600 Fairground Drive, Paulding, Ohio. In addition to the quilt show, the entire museum will be open for visitors to explore and enjoy throughout the week.

Special programming during the week will include a presentation from Threads of Love, a quilting ministry from Westgate Chapel, on Saturday, June 13 at 1:00 p.m. The group will share the story behind their ministry and how quilting is used to support and encourage others through handmade gifts.

Guests will also have opportunities to participate in several raffles throughout the week, including daily quilt and sewing package giveaways. Tickets will also be available for purchase for a chance to win a beautiful

quilted wall hanging donated by Red Barn Quiltery of Monroeville, Indiana, with the winning ticket to be drawn on Saturday, June 13.

Community members who would like to display a quilt during the show are encouraged to participate. Quilt drop-off dates are scheduled for Saturday, May 30 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 2 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information about the Quilt Show or quilt submissions, please contact Guy Dasher at 419-769-7269 or Jennifer at 419-796-9098.

## ALL ABOARD! VWCT REVEALS THE CAST OF MURDER ON THE MONKEY EXPRESS

Summer Youth Theatre's First Production of 2026 Promises Mystery, Mayhem & Monkey Business!

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is excited to announce the cast of this summer's first Youth Theatre production, *Murder on the Monkey Express!*, directed by Grace Doctor. Packed with comedy, chaos, suspicious passengers, and one unforgettable monkey, this hilarious whodunit rolls into town June 4-7.

Audiences can expect an evening full of twists, laughs, and over-the-top characters as our talented young performers bring this wild mystery to life aboard the most unusual train ride ever imagined. From detectives and chefs to sheriffs and secretive travelers, everyone's a suspect on the Monkey Express!

Visit vwct.org, or call the box office at (419) 238-9689.

### Cast List:

Herbie Hampton - Marcus Kerns; Greta Gibbons - Annabelle Harvey; Conductor - Nora Eddy; Mystery Reader - Jettie Rammel; Sheriff Jessie Jane Johnson - Lily Schnipke; Adam - Bing Rammel; Vicki Vitrolla - Willow Sheets; Bertram - Grayson Baker; Bernard - Mox Sinn; Monkey - Adeline English; Vanessa Vanes - Sophia Berryman; Chef Barb - Reese Miller; Chef Bernadette - Adeline McComas; Wade Watson - Kaden Hurley; Dr. Alexandria Ashworth - Jettie Rammel; Maverick - Nora

# THREE INDUCTED INTO PEVS ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME DURING MAY CEREMONY



Three former students were inducted into the Paulding Exempted Village Schools Academic Hall of Fame during ceremonies held on May 17, 2026.

Honored for their academic achievements and professional accomplishments

were Carlton Schlatter, DMV, a member of the Paulding High School Class of 1979; Frank Lands, a member of the Paulding High School Class of 1992; and Betty Schlatter, CNM, PhD, a graduate of Auglaize-Brown High School's Class of 1966.

Hillery; Monkowski - Jon Caldwell; Flight Attendant Max Hanson - Jacob McComas; Sergeant Jones - Colby Tyas; Agatha - Olivia Welch; Monika - Magnolia Zeigler; Violet Valentine - Layla Norton; Brittany - Natalie Caldwell; Brianna - Leena Shaffer;

Stage Manager - Max Kaiser *Murder on the Monkey Express*, June 4-7, 2026; Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday Matinee at 2:00 p.m.

Get ready for a fast-paced theatrical adventure full of mystery, mischief, and monkey-sized surprises!

## 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  
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Paulding, Ohio 45879

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