

## COUNTRY INN ENHANCED LIVING CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW MEDICAL DIRECTOR, EXPANDED THERAPY SERVICES



Midwest Rehab now offers In-House therapy at Country Inn Enhanced Living Center

PAULDING — The Country Inn Enhanced Living Center is expanding its commitment to quality care with the addition of a new medical director and enhanced in-house rehabilitation services for residents.

Beginning in July, the assisted living facility will welcome Dr. Nigel Hogan as its new Medical Director. Dr. Hogan, a family physician serving the Paulding County area, brings a passion for compassionate, patient-centered healthcare and a commitment to supporting residents, families, and staff through quality medical leadership.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to care for the resi-

dents of Country Inn and to partner with the team in fostering a warm, respectful, and life-giving community,” Hogan said in an introduction provided by the facility.

Outside of his medical practice, Hogan enjoys spending time with his wife, Maya, and their four children. He said family life keeps him “joyful, meaningful, and full of adventure.”

In addition to welcoming Dr. Hogan, Country Inn has partnered with Midwest Rehab to provide in-house physical, occupational, and speech therapy services. The rehabilitation provider has served communities throughout the

(Continued on Page 2)

## HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CELEBRATES HOME DEDICATION IN VAN WERT



VAN WERT – Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert held a dedication for their newest home in Van Wert on Sunday.

The house at 917 George Street is the new home of Cheyanna Wheeler and her son, Riot, 3.

“I never saw a community come together so much,” Wheeler told the crowd about

the creation of her new home. “I never want to be anywhere else but Van Wert. It’s a wonderful community.”

Van Wert County Commissioner Thad Lichtensteiger welcomed Wheeler to Van Wert.

“Congratulations on the dedication of a new home,” he declared. “It looks beautiful.”

He added that his father

used to say “many hands make light work.”

“It conveys what happened here,” he remarked. “Home ownership is a barometer of the community – that investment shows you are part of the community.”

Lichtensteiger also stated that only 1 percent of homeowners participate in building

(Continued on Page 3)



### CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY PROVIDES FREE WEEKEND FOOD TO COUNTY KIDS THIS SUMMER

Beginning June 6, the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry joined forces with Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) to provide free food to Paulding County kids this summer...SEVEN DAYS A WEEK.

In June and July, NOCAC provides free lunches and activities on weekdays at two locations in Paulding County. This year, for the first time, the pantry also will provide Blessings in a Bag on Fridays, which will provide a bag of food for each kid over the weekend. The bag will include

two breakfast meals, two lunch meals and two snacks.

The Blessings in a Bag program was originated as a student enrichment project in xxxx by a Paulding Exempted Village Schools student and has been maintained by students since then with the support of now retired teacher, Melissa Harder. With her ongoing support, the pantry is committed to keeping this program alive to help feed our

county’s children, more than 16% of whom are considered food insecure.

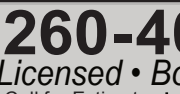
Lunches will be served Monday through Friday June 3 through July 24, with the exception of June 19 and July 3. Weekend Blessings in a Bag will be available for pick up on Fridays (and on Thursdays June 18 and July 2 due to holidays).

(Continued on Page 4)

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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 9

- PC Democrat Party Meeting @ Paulding Eagles, 7p
- Celebration for Veterans @ Sherwood VFW, 5:30p
- DPLS Finance Committee Meeting, 4p

### June 10

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- PC Republican Women Meeting @ PC Fairgrounds, 6p
- GriefShare @ First UMC, Van Wert, 6-8p

### June 11

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

### June 12

- Boots & Brews @ Fountain Park, VW, 7:30p

### June 13

- Daddy & Me Craft @ Paulding Library, 9:30a-12p

### June 15

- Mark Holtsberry to Speak @ Oakwood Library, 5p

### June 16

- Eric Hubbard, Archaeologist @ Defiance Library, 6-7:30p

### June 17

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- Digital Navigation @ PATH Ctr., Defiance, 10:30-11:30a
- GriefShare @ First UMC, Van Wert, 6-8p



Add your event to the calendar info@westbendnews.net



## OBITUARIES

PAYNE, OH:  
**Velma Marlene Dinger**, 96 of Payne, passed away on May 11, 2026 at Homestead Assisted Living in Van Wert, Ohio. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

PAULDING, OH:  
**Rex Eugene Stores**, 69, passed away Wednesday, May 13, 2026 at Adams Woodcrest of Decatur, Indiana. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

ANTWERP, OH:  
**Gary Gene Hughes**, 68, of Antwerp, Ohio passed away Monday, May 18, 2026 at the Laurels of Defiance. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

PAYNE, OH:  
**Michael "Mick" Baumert**, 73, of Payne, passed away Saturday, May 30, 2026 at the Laurels of Defiance. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

FORT WAYNE, IN:  
**Dorothy Mary Louise James**, 72, of Fort Wayne, Indiana, formerly of Antwerp, Ohio passed away Saturday, May 30, 2026 at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

SPENCERVILLE, IN:  
**Jordan Eugene Sheely** went to be with his Lord and Savior on June 4, 2026. Arr. by Dooley Funeral Homes of Antwerp and Payne, Ohio.

surance verification and approval.

To introduce the community to these new services and partnerships, Country Inn Enhanced Living Center will host an open house on Thursday, June 18, from 4 to 7 p.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the facility, meet staff members, and learn more about the care and rehabilitation services available to residents.

Country Inn Enhanced Living Center is located at 12651 County Road 82, Paulding. For more information, call 419-399-2345.

## PROMEDICA OFFERS JULY COMMUNITY EVENTS

ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group – The ProMedica Weight Loss Surgery Support Group is designed for patients who have undergone weight loss surgery or for community members seeking more information about this procedure. The group meets on the first Monday of every month at the ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, Education Conference Rooms 1 & 2 (5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560), beginning at 6 p.m. No registration is required.

July 16, 2026 – Northeast Ohio Amputee Support Group – The Northeast Ohio Amputee Support Group is a peer-led group focused on connection, shared experience and real-world guidance. New amputees, long-term amputees, caregivers, supporters and anyone impacted by limb loss are encouraged to attend. The group meets on the third Thursday of every month at the ProMedica Health & Wellness Center, Community Room 1 (5700 Monroe Street, Sylvania, OH 43560), beginning at 4:00 p.m. No registration is required. For more information, call 440-988-5770.

July 23, 2026 – ProMedica Stroke Support Group – The ProMedica Stroke Support Group provides education and support for stroke survivors and their caregivers. This month's topic, "Caring for the Caregiver and Supporting the Stroke Survivor," will include breakout sessions focused on caregiver support and stroke recovery. The group will meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the second-floor Education Room inside the ProMedica Neurosciences Center.

July 2026 – ProMedica Ronald McDonald Care Mobile – The ProMedica Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is a child-focused mobile clinic offering sick visits, physicals, immunizations and more. The clinic is open Monday–Thursday every week. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please call or text 567-389-2841. Walk-ins are welcome. Locations vary.

## 1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GOSPEL FEST UNDER THE TENT



*Not Ourselves* will perform at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gospel Fest at Oakwood Community Church.



*Armour of God* will perform at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gospel Fest at Oakwood Community Church.

On Saturday, June 20, 2026 from 1:00-6:00 p.m. the Oakwood Community Church and Melrose Community Church invite you to come join us under the Tent for an uplifting afternoon of gospel music, fellowship and family fun!

Enjoy inspiring worship music under the tent, kid's inflatable bounce house and obstacle course on the lawn, and a welcoming community atmosphere.

Seating will be available, though you are welcome to bring a lawn chair.

Food and refreshments will be available, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips,



*Just Us* will perform at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Gospel Fest at Oakwood Community Church.

water, and freeze pops, offered with free will donations accepted.

Plenty of parking available. We are located at 201 East Harmon St. Oakwood, Ohio 45873.

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon of worship and fellowship with you!

See the Oakwood Community Church and Melrose Community Church Facebook pages for detailed information.

## WHY CARBON CREDITS?

Carbon credits are still around and farmers should pay attention because it can be a profitable revenue stream. A carbon credit is a tradeable certificate for 1 metric ton of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere or recycled through sustainable farming practices.

Farmers can sell these credits to companies as carbon offsets in voluntary markets. Practices like no-till farming, cover crops, and even using some biologicals increase carbon in the soil. For the farmer, getting paid to increase carbon or soil organic matter (SOM is 54% carbon) is a win-win proposition. Higher SOM increases yields and retains fertilizer nutrients and water for better crops. For farmers, up to 60% higher profit is possible by cutting back on fertilizer and still maintaining or even increasing crop quality and crop yields.

Environmental benefits are also better. Less fertilizer used means less nutrient runoff and higher water quality. Improving SOM leads to less soil and wind erosion. For the consumer, that means less money is spent cleaning up water for consumption and bathing. Other benefits include better wild life habitat so better hunting, fishing, and recreational activities.

Farmers can participate in several ways. No-till farming preserves SOM and keeps carbon in the soil. Cover crop-

ping adds roots and carbon to make more SOM through microbial digestion. Manure management practices like methane reductions from anaerobic (lack of oxygen) digesters which reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Reducing commercial synthetic fertilizer lowers nitrous oxide another GHG. Planting trees or installing wetlands help sequester (recycle) carbon and reduce GHG emissions. In order to get carbon credits, extensive soil testing and documentation is required by a third party. Companies are buying these carbon credits to offset GHG emissions.

You may wonder, why would a company voluntarily pay to reduce GHG emissions? First, many companies are world-wide conglomerates meaning they operate in many countries. European companies are required to reduce GHG emissions. Some do it for managing climate risk or simply for PR purposes. Companies have found that reducing their GHG emissions leads to higher profits by reducing their energy needs. It is also more profitable to pay farmers to sequester or recycle carbon than it is for them to convert their factories. They are allowed to pollute while the farmer benefits from absorbing and converting that carbon dioxide into plant food. For the farmer it's another way to make money, and in tight commodity markets, that's a way to survive.

The GHG emissions refer

## Scripture of the Week

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11

## DO NOT JUDGE



Matthew 7:1-2 states, "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

This passage is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, in which he imparts essential teachings on human relationships and moral integrity. At its core, these verses highlight the principle of reciprocity in judgment—implying that the standards we apply to others will inevitably be applied to us in return.

The verses remind us to approach others with humility rather than a critical spirit. It's easy to point out faults in others while overlooking our own imperfections. This calls for self-reflection and personal accountability, urging us to focus on our own behavior before critiquing others.

The idea that the measure

we use will be the measure used toward us underscores a moral law of the universe. If we judge harshly, we can expect that same harshness to come back to us. In my old neighborhood, we would say, "What goes around comes around."

Conversely, showing grace, understanding, and kindness can foster a more compassionate environment.

Encouraging empathy and understanding fosters deeper relationships, in which individuals support one another rather than tearing each other down. This fosters an environment where people feel safe to share their struggles without fear of condemnation.

In retrospect, these verses invite spiritual contemplation about our own shortcomings and the grace we've received. Understanding our need for forgiveness can cultivate a compassionate heart that extends that same grace to others.

Matthew 7:1-2 challenges us not only to reconsider how we judge others' actions but also to recognize the power of our words and judgments in shaping our relationships and the communities we inhabit. By embracing this teaching, we can contribute to healing and understanding in our interactions with others. Lord knows we could all use healing and understanding. Can't we?

Peace and Love,  
—Pastor Dwayne

to carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide (NO) that trap heat in the atmosphere. A leading GHG emission is water but that is often left out. Water and carbon dioxide are critical for plant growth. Methane is often associated with manure and cow's belching methane gas. In the USA, when we reduced the 60 million bison and replaced them with 100 million cattle, that was about a wash for methane. Nitrous oxide is the worst GHG emission and agriculture uses a lot of synthetic fertilizer that emits NO. That's the one that is getting more attention especially in transportation (engines).

There are three types or scopes of GHG emissions including Scope 1, 2, and 3. Scope 1 GHG emissions are those a farm or company use directly on their operation. For example, heating on site or fuel for transportation or farming. Scope 2 GHG emissions are indirect emissions like electricity where the emissions are created off site. Finally, Scope 3 GHG emissions are for purchased supplies. In agriculture think crops, food, fiber, meat going offsite. Scope 1 & 2 GHG emissions are fairly easy to track. It's the Scope 3 GHG that usually estimated and harder to track.

This is where agriculture and companies are starting to spend more money to quantify, so this greatly benefits farmers.

For a quick example, think about popcorn eaten at a theatre, mall, or grocery store. What is the carbon footprint or GHG emissions for that product. Scope 1 and 2 come from the business. The fuel to truck or heat the product and packaging costs plus the electricity. The hard part is estimating the Scope 3 emissions. We'll concentrate on just that coming from making or growing the popcorn.

Scope 3 includes purchased goods and services going offsite to the theatre which includes the corn kernel and everything it took to produce that popcorn kernel. That includes the farmland soil, the fertilizer and pesticides, the fuel for the tractors and the trucks to haul it, etc. It gets complicated, but for farmers, those numbers are huge and that means if farmers can produce that crop sustainably, they can get higher carbon credit payments. In some cases, that can be \$70 per acre per year!

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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## BAD SITUATIONS

### Penny For Your Thoughts By: Nancy Whitaker

Has anything funny or embarrassing ever happened to you? Have you ever lost your glasses and found them on top of your head?

Everyone at one time or another has done something embarrassing and I am really good at it. Years ago my family went out to eat at a nice restaurant in Lima. In the glass counter where you check out, there was a display of homemade cinnamon rolls. A sign in front of the rolls said 5 for \$10. They looked so good I said I wanted 5.

When I went to pay the clerk said, "That will be \$15." I replied, "No, the sign says 5 for \$10. That would be \$2 a piece." The clerk said, "Oh that sign is for something else, but cinnamon rolls are \$3 for 1." I lost my temper a little bit and told the lady taking the money, "Well I am not paying \$3 per roll, so just put them back in the case."

It was winter time and the parking lot was icy. I stomped out the door and "whee" I went sliding down the icy road and went under a parked car. My head was sticking out from the car so thank God I was ok. People coming out the door said "that's the lady who got mad over cinnamon rolls." I was embarrassed and said, "Well sir, I just wanted a roll."

This story came to me a while back. A gentleman was in Fort Wayne and saw a stand and a sign that said "Free hot-dogs" Going up to the stand he told the waitress, "I'll take one of those free hot dogs."

He decided he wanted mustard on his hot dog and reached for the mustard container. He squeezed the container and nothing came out. He shook some more and still no mustard.

Then showing his manly muscles he squeezed that mustard bottle so hard that the mustard lid came off and

mustard squirted out all over. His mustard landed on the poor waitress and himself. He was embarrassed and his hot dog landed on the ground.

He told me, "I told her I was sorry but she was not friendly at that point so I just went to a gas station and tried getting my clothes clean in the bathroom sink."

In high school many years ago, I always tried to chew gum in class and study hall. Ha! Teacher never caught me till one day she called out my name, "Nancy come up here." She said, "I saw you chewing that gum so spit it out and bring it to me."



I went to the front of the room and the teacher said, "Now put that gum on the chalkboard and stick your nose on it for the remainder of class." No, no, not me I could not stand up in front of everyone with my nose glued to the chalkboard. That was so embarrassing. But I did and I never tried chewing gum in her class again.

Then one Sunday we had a church dinner and I was so hungry. There was a beautiful angel food cake on the table with chocolate frosting on it. Oh my. With my tummy growling I looked around and did not see anyone. So, I stuck my finger right in that cake and licked off that good chocolate frosting. About that time a big church lady came up and said, "Nancy get your finger out of my cake." I jumped back and said, "Ma'am I only stuck one finger in it and it was so good. Shhh. Don't tell anyone please."

Yep, I got caught and it made me feel embarrassed. However that lick of chocolate frosting off my finger was worth every penny I had.

I just heard another story of a young man who was good at history and current events. His knowledge won him a trip to Washington DC

Another student went also

and one evening a very fancy dinner was held. Students were dressed to the hilt and the other student who went with him also was sitting beside him.

Everyone was getting ready for a delicious dinner when the young man had a sudden sneeze. Aaaaa-chooooo. Talk about being embarrassed. A big ball of the contents of his nose (snot) escaped from his nostrils and landed on the girls arm. I was told, "no one

(Continued from Page 1)

their home - that puts Wheeler in a unique group. He added that helping build her house means that Wheeler has "put her heart and soul" into her home.

"Congratulations for being part of the community," he stressed. "We're delighted to have you own a home in our city and county of Van Wert."

As part of the home's dedication, Pastor Michael Baer of First Missionary Church and several church members blessed the dwelling while Pastor Daniel Perry of North Union Church presented the benediction.

Several churches and church groups have helped Habitat with its builds. The goal of Habitat for Humanity is to provide decent housing for qualified families.

"This is not a free home," pointed out Laurie Lucas, executive director of Habitat. "The gift from Habitat is a 0-percent loan."

A homeowner's mortgage is based on the cost of materials. In addition to house payments, each Habitat homeowner must pay for their own utilities, home maintenance, taxes and insurance.

Partner families must help with the builds, putting sweat equity hours into their homes.

Cheryl Stauffer, family support for Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert, told those in attendance that homeowners put in 250 sweat equity hours homes.

"She was really motivated," Stauffer said of Wheeler.

Construction manager Christopher Bercaw thanked everyone that helped work on the home.

"We had a lot of businesses and volunteers build this home," he acknowledged, praising various individuals

was very hungry at our table after that!"

We all have days and times of thinking "Now why did I do that and who all saw me do it."

Have you ever done something that might have embarrassed you? Have you ever squirted mustard on a waitress or slid on the ice under a car over cinnamon rolls?

Let me know and I'll give you a Penny For Your Thoughts.

including head volunteer Brian DeLucenay. "A lot of this community came together to help us build this."

Many groups of volunteers and donors helped make the home a reality including: Van Wert Knights of Columbus, Convoy Lions Club, Central Insurance, Vantage Career Center, First Missionary Church, Leis Roofing, Van Wert County Fair, David and Janice Lichensteiger, Help Builds Hope, Schlatter's Heating & Plumbing, Menards, Alexander & Bedbout, Bedbout & Hous, Cool Machines, Chad Bonnett, Datemeyer Brothers, Echone Paint, Goedde School, Danny and Jill McCoy, Lee's Ace Hardware and Wallace Plumbing.

Now that the Wheeler home is complete, Habitat is actively looking for other sites and families to partner with in the area.

"It's always a special occasion when we finish a home because it means we can start a new one," stated Lucas, adding that this build started in September 2025.

Also during the dedication, Habitat presented a special plaque to Andy McMahon for his years of service and dedication to Habitat for Humanity. McMahon has been a member of Habitat since 1992. He has helped on numerous builds throughout the years.

To learn more about the Habitat for Humanity of Paulding-Van Wert visit them on Facebook.

### GRIEF SHARE SUPPORT PROGRAM TO BEGIN JUNE 10 IN VAN WERT

First United Methodist Church and Trinity Friends Church in Van Wert are partnering this summer to host GriefShare, a special weekly seminar and support group designed to help people rebuild their lives after losing a loved one.

The 7-week session will run on Wednesday nights from June 10 through July 22, 2026, meeting from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

The group will meet at First United Methodist Church in the Scheidt Room, located at 113 W. Central Ave., Van Wert, OH. The facility is fully handicap accessible.

At GriefShare, participants will watch a weekly video featuring counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories, followed by a time of sharing and support. Session topics include what is "normal" in grief, how to handle difficult and overwhelming emotions, and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries

Participant workbooks are available for to help guide individuals through the 7-week journey. Scholarships are available. GriefShare is a network of thousands of grief support

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

John Irvin Swisher was born July 3, 1893, in Paulding County, Ohio, the son of George M. Swisher, who was born in December 1850 in Ohio, and Mary E. (Ayers) Swisher, who was born in 1864 in Ohio. The couple was married on January 13, 1885, in Van Wert, Ohio.

By 1890, the family was living in Paulding County, where George worked as a day laborer. A daughter, Laura Gertrude Swisher, was born in October 1885, followed by Francis John in July 1889. By 1900, the family was still living in Paulding. A daughter, Anna Elizabeth, had been born, followed by Joseph Marion in January 1895, Candice Allene in March 1897, and Vera Cleora in June 1899. John was a grade school student at the time.

By 1910, the family had moved to Bethany Township, Gratiot County, Michigan. George found work as a farm laborer. The birth of Bernard R. Swisher in 1902 completed the family. John was working odd jobs as a laborer. John's mother, Mary, passed away, although details of her burial could not be found. George remarried within the year.

By 1915, John had moved to Erie County, Ohio, where he worked various odd jobs. There he met a seventeen-

year-old young woman named Carla R. Hill. They were married in 1915. Sadly, she died on October 26, 1915, and was buried in Sand Hill Cemetery in Margareta Township, Erie County, Ohio.

George's second wife, Darlah Ruby Swisher, passed away on Wednesday, January 5, 1916, at 2:30 in the afternoon at her parents' home. Funeral services were held at the home on Saturday afternoon.

John registered for the World War I draft on June 5, 1917, in Erie County, Ohio. He was described as being of medium height and build, with brown eyes and auburn hair, and was noted as having a disability in his right ear. At the time, he was working as a teamster for Woodside Farms in Breckenridge, Michigan.

On August 26, 1918, John joined the National Guard out of Sandusky, Ohio. He served with the 39th Company, 10th Battalion, 159th Depot Brigade until September 28, 1918. He was then transferred to Battery B, 70th Field Artillery. He received an honorable discharge on January 30, 1919.

On December 31, 1919, John married Ruth Bartley Sedore. She was born on August 24, 1902, in Isabella County, Michigan. In 1920, John and Ruth lived with John's father and stepmother in Wheeler, Michigan, on Cedar Street. John was engaged in farming.

After their divorce in 1922, Ruth, for whom this was her second marriage, would go on to marry two more times. John moved to Colorado, although it is not known what took him there. He passed away on December 31, 1924. His body was returned home and buried in Sand Hill Cemetery beside his first wife, Carla.

Ruth passed away shortly after her fourth marriage on July 14, 1929. She is buried in New Mexico.

... Until Next Time!

groups meeting worldwide. The program is designed to offer help and hope as individuals navigate the intense pain of losing a spouse, child, family member, or friend.

For more information, to register, or to inquire about the program, please contact

Jamie Ramos at First United Methodist Church (419-238-0631 ext. 105), Megan Tschantz at Trinity Friends Church, or visit vanwertfirst.net/events. General information about the program can also be found at griefshare.org.

## 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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## DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS GROWING ST. JOHN'S FOOD PANTRY



Pictured above are (l-r) Deb Hench - DAF Board Member and Grants Committee Member and Jay Turnbull - Food Pantry Volunteer.

The Defiance Area Foundation has awarded a \$1,000 grant to the St. John's Lutheran Food Pantry in Hicksville during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the grant was provided through the Hanna Family Memorial Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella.

The grant will help provide food pantry supplies for the growing pantry, which was established one year ago to serve individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in the

Hicksville community.

The pantry is located outside St. John's Lutheran Church and is accessible to anyone in need without paperwork or requirements. According to Food Pantry Lead Volunteer Jay Turnbull, demand for the pantry has grown greater than expected since the project began.

The organization also plans to begin opening an indoor pantry space one day each month to further serve the community.

## VANTAGE CAREER CENTER RECOGNIZES 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS AB HONOR ROLL STUDENTS

Vantage Career Center is proud to recognize the outstanding academic achievements of its students who earned placement on the AB Honor Roll for the 4th Nine Weeks. This honor reflects strong dedication, perseverance, and a commitment to excellence both in the classroom and in career-technical learning.

Students marked with an asterisk (\*) achieved a 4.0 GPA, representing the highest level of academic performance.

Congratulations to the following students from our partner schools:

### ANTWERP:

*Juniors* - \*Hailey Clem, \*Maddilan Doster, Maddox Friend, Danica Lehman, \*Kara Pierce, \*Madison Schmidt

*Seniors* - Zander Bailey, Nik Brandenburg, Zaybriel King-Bauer, \*Griffin Kosch, Caleb Lockhart, Brendon Osborn, \*Colten Sargent, Corbin Sargent, Alexander Stevenson

### CONTINENTAL:

*Juniors* - Lizzey Callahan, Tabathe Callahan, \*Laney

### Nienberg

*Seniors* - \*Rhettik Bowers, Cole English, Lily Lamond, Brady Thomsen

### CRESTVIEW:

*Juniors* - Sebastian Craig, Kaden Gause, \*Gwyneth Kahle, Cole Miller, Dylan Moore, \*Evan Myers, Jaymie Quickstad, Kaydacen Rodriguez, Kenadi Short, Tory Singer, Robert Tyas, Kale Vining, Hayden Waltmire

*Seniors* - Josselynn Fuller, Serenity Hunter, Trevor Lirot, \*Cora Meyer, \*Eliza Reinhart, \*Lincoln Smith, Brayden Wallace

### DELPHOS JEFFERSON:

*Juniors* - Isabela Basinger, Mia Caputo, Lexie Cheney, Kyrsten Haehn, Nephtalie Miller, Jaxon Rahrig, William Taggi, Jacob Trentman, Brielle Wright

*Seniors* - \*Hailey Acheson, Zackery Brown, \*Alex Groch, Caydence Henry, \*Logan Miller, \*Leyton Parent, Melody Richards, \*Layla Toy, Robert Vandyke, \*Dylan Wreede

### DELPHOS ST. JOHN'S

*Juniors* - Zachary Bockey, Leah DeVelvis, Owen Gilles, \*Lillian Schnee

*Seniors* - Lydia Etzkorn, Carson Feathers, \*Jackson Hoersten, \*Grady Holdgreve, Brennan Suever, \*Drew Ulm,

Henry Wapole, \*Riley Wenzlick

### FORT JENNINGS:

*Juniors* - Mallory Jacomet, \*Ava Knippen, Riley Martin, Gaige Miller, Karder Miller, Lilly Schaefer, Sophia Schaefer, Grace Welch

*Seniors* - \*Ryan Aldrich, Kyle Britton, \*Rayne Burgei, Landon Calvelage, Chase German, Bailey Hile, \*Kailey Meyer, Dylan Schaefer, \*Brooklyn Stone

### KALIDA:

*Juniors* - Lexie Brinkman, \*Emily Burgei, Carson Buss, Cooper Horstman, \*Oliver Kahle, \*Carson Price, Ruby Vandercook

*Seniors* - \*Jason Luersman, \*Annelise Price

### LINCOLNVIEW:

*Juniors* - \*Moriah Bertsch, Corbin Blockberger, Sophia Brickner, \*Wyatt Burkhart, Zander Coil, Jaxstyn Crowle, \*Tyler Eddy, \*Zayden Harter, Iridessa Moulton, KarliAnn Neer, Gavin Priest, Emerson Renner, Kelsey Vancleave, \*Yaddo Von Stetina, Keegan Welker, Austin Welling

*Seniors* - \*Zion Bertsch, Grayden Clay, \*Braeden Hire, \*Kale Kundert, Maddisyn Pescosolido, Wyatt Polley, \*Macie Pugh, Gracie Schaadt, Townsend Wilkinson

### MILLER CITY:

*Seniors* - Taten Long

### OTTAWA-GLANDORF:

*Seniors* - \*Mitchell Moening

### OTTOVILLE:

*Juniors* - \*Isaac Brinkman, \*Liam Druckemiller, Riley Geise, Riley Kemper, Colton Knippen, \*Logan Koester, \*Landen Saxton, Austin Schnipke, Kendall Schultz, Carson Turnwald

*Seniors* - Bailey Bennett, Abigail Bullinger, \*Bela Fiedler, Luke Hoffman, \*Zachary Hohlbein

### PARKWAY:

*Juniors* - Morgan Bentz, \*Dylan Bollenbacher, \*Gage Brister, Oliver Haines, Kelsie Kellermeyer, Mackenzie Miller, \*Tyler Rutledge, Gavin Westgerdes, \*Tobin Winters

*Seniors* - Tara Brown, Dakota Eller, Troy Miller

### PAULDING:

*Juniors* - \*Braylon Barnes, \*Lexie Hankinson, Esperanza Kline, Noah Pollock

*Seniors* - Destiny Brooks, Izaac Coutts, Callie Garber, \*Damien Iliff, \*Brooklyn King, Layla Kremer, Clayton Manz, Kellen Manz, Abigail Panches, Riley Sanders, Logan Winke, \*Adan Zacarias

### VAN WERT:

*Juniors* - Harper Cramer, Izabella Gonzalez, Zarik Hall, Devin Hensley, Kenten Hill, Jaydon Lamb, \*Brayden Miller, Reese Saum, Carter Soltis, Quinn Spackey, Zander Stemen, Trenton Tressler, \*Elijah Wofford, Maddox Workman

*Seniors* - Kierra Alvarado, Breese Bollenbacher, Zoey Doner, \*Levyn Grams, Kenna Hill, Dominik Johnson, Jaelynn Karcher, Dakota Lowe, Felicia Martz, Dalton Miller, \*Landon Nagel, Gavin Springer, Summer Sprowl, William Stickney, \*Hannah

Vetter, Addison Wallace

### WAYNE TRACE:

*Juniors* - Addisyn Bradtmueller, Dakota Densmore, \*Alex Doster, \*Elizabeth Graham, Ben Gurney, Miley Jacobs, Colton Kimmel, Reece Olwin, \*Grayson Sutton, Olivia Zartman

*Seniors* - \*Tyler Blankenship, Lily Boyd, William Burgei, \*Caleb Cox, Alexandria Dewaard, Audrey Dougal, \*Ethan Fisher, \*Jordan Hale, Steven Howe, Justin Lyons, Cole Miller, \*Lucas Morehead, \*Delana Noggle, Eric Reinhart, Myleigh Sheets, Careen Winans, Caroline Winans

Congratulations to all Vantage AB Honor Roll students!

## WT PAYNE ELEMENTARY 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

*No honor roll for grades K-2*

### THIRD GRADE:

*All A's* - Zaina Danner, Bennett Gerardot, Amelia Mawer, Gabriel Metcalfe, Landon Sherry, Andrew Stoller

*All A's & B's* - Ellie Burkley, Joseph Dargenson, Silas Dempsey, Aliyah Gerardot, Evan Kipfer, Kinlee Lamb, Jayce Linder, Arya Litzenberg, Londyn McMillan, Holden Mullins, Lydia Osbun, River Stoller, Monroe Taylor, Elaine Temple, Chase Wright

### FOURTH GRADE:

*All A's* - Atlas Allenbaugh, Ayden Good, Xander Mansfield, Emersyn Showalter, Ethan Valdez

*All A's & B's* - Titus Allenbaugh, Andrew Cox, Lyra Cabbage, Nimai Danner, Craiden Hitchcock, Celeste Hollar, Thea Keys, Noah Lazoff, Abigail Miles, Cameron Miller, Gunner Reeves, Remington Schilt, Waylon Stoller, Brezlyn Strickler, Natalie Zartman

### FIFTH GRADE:

*All A's* - Peyton Hollar, Aubree Phlipot, Elise Steffen, Maylee Stoller, Allie Wilcox

*All A's & B's* - Henry Childs, Aryah Delgado, Mary Gerardot, Jerica Gonzales, Norah Mawer, Megan McKinney, Nellie McMillan, Hank Mullins

*All B's* - Clara Dewaard, Jack Meyers, Aylen Schlegel, Jeremy Seibert

### SIXTH GRADE:

*All A's* - Raylynn Gerardot, Pieper Mansfield, Hannah Mawer, Callen Stoller, Brynlee Stoller, Bryleigh Wieland

*All A's & B's* - Saylor Denning, Adalyn Litzenberg, Boston McGarvey, Piper Mills, Wade Stoller, Braden Williams

*All B's* - Lydia She Nash Sinn

## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

### SENIORS:

4.0 - Grady Barton  
lynn Breedlove, Lucy Grace Cantu, Makayla Xsenia Casiano, L Danberry, Mallory Jackson Griffith, I

11:30 a.m.

No one will need to prove income or provide ID. Children under age 5 must be accompanied by an adult.

Follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/caring-sharingfoodpantry](http://www.facebook.com/caring-sharingfoodpantry). Or for more information, contact the pantry at (419) 399-9562 or [info@caresharepantry.org](mailto:info@caresharepantry.org).

## ONE DAY AT A TIME

"Do you remember  
"When you walked among men  
"Jesus, you know when you're looking below  
"It's worse now than then  
"Pushing and shoving, crowding your mind  
"Lord for my sake  
"Teach me to take  
"One day at a time"

My friend had a difficult day yesterday. I felt so sorry, but there was not a whole lot that I could do except to pray. This life is not easy. It seems that trials are a big part of it. While contemplating the day my friend had, this song came to mind. What else can we do but take life one day at a time.

"One day at a time, sweet Jesus

"That's all I'm asking of you

"Give me the strength to do everything that I have to do

"Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus

"And tomorrow may never be mine

"Help me today

"Show me the way

"One day at a time"

A friend told me today that



America is no longer a Christian nation. This is probably true. When I was a lad literally everyone I knew went to church. Europe had huge cathedrals, but they were empty. Now I don't see any of my neighbors going to church.

"I'm only human, I'm just a man

"Help me believe in what I could be and all that I am

"Show me the stairway

"That I have to climb

"Lord for my sake

"Teach me to take

"One day at a time"

As we near the end of our days, life becomes even more of a struggle. We can't do many of the things we used to do, but we are always thankful for what we have, and all we are able to do. One day at a time.

—James Neuhouser

Harwell, Addison Hunt, Colten Hunt, Jackson Laker, Isabelle Lamb, Miguel Martinez, Aleah Matty, Renee McCabe, Tessa Metcalf, Addison Pease, Thad Schneider, Xander Schwab, Jack Schweller, Sheyenne Shepherd, Addison Shull

3.5-3.99 - Katherine Burtch, Lilian Daniels, Jacob Harris, Gerald Hartzell, Molly Iler, Samantha Leal, Damien Peffley, Edwin Perez Escobar, Laila Stiltner

3.0-3.49 - Adriana Biliti, Jaylin Born, Xavier Farmer, Alexander Highwarden, Alexander Kuckuck, Leticia Mendez, Blake Rhonehouse

### JUNIORS:

4.0 - Anija Acevedo, Destiny Aldred, London Ametewee, Remington Boroff, Isabella Burtch, Max Daeger, Landon Dasher, Kayleigh Dunham, Jayla Griffith, Reina Kleman, Mariah Klopfenstein, Esther Lemieux, Camdyn Manz, Kate Manz, Myrriah Manz, Landyn Moore, Vivienne Myers, Estie Pease, Lucy Porter, Leonel Reyes, Skylar Ruby, Tori Schlatter, Cadence Schwab, Lily Speelman, Audrey Stoller, Darcy Taylor

3.5-3.99 - Emmet Barnes, Avery Cooper, Mackenzie Leatherman, Myaja Liles, Olivia McCrory, Eli Pessefall,

Gonzales, Achilles Mead, Kolton Shomsky

### SOPHOMORES:

4.0 - Annabelle Ametewee, Addison Arend, Presley Barnes, Lela Brownell, Phoenix Clements, Kinzley Colard, Chloe Coombs, Carly Font, Andrew Goyings, Easton Griffiths, Quinton Laker, Cameron Lambert, Ava Leatherman, Graham Miller, Gabriella Mullins, Miracle Omonayin, Levi Ray, Gabriella Stork, Miley Vanhorn Laney, Alayna White

3.5-3.99 - Zachary Barton, Nicholas Baughman, Coehen Benard, Zaine Bidlack, Sophia Booher, Richard Brownell, Rylee Cox, Jack Daeger, Trevor Durham, Parker Egnor, Kyler Foor, Tyler Goyings, Addyson Gribble, Jarret Griffith, Alexandra Heath, Taylor Hogans, Delaney Johanns, Alivia Kingen, Kaydence Kuckuck, Gannon Landers, Maleah Leslie, Magdiel Lopez Santiago, Jason Manz, Tyson Manz, Anabel Martinez, Holly Peffley, Civil Pumphyrey, Nicholas Schlueter, Delaney Scott, Tristen Vorlicky

3.0-3.49 - Ella Barker, Mary Gibson, Emily Hartzell, Ridge Hunt, Lyndi Lamond, Adrianna Mead, Olivia Miles, Sean Reish, Austin

**Saturday, June 13th, 2026**

**Open 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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(Continued from Page 1)

Children ages 1-18 (up to age 21 with disability) can participate on weekdays and pick up weekend food at the following locations:

• **LaFountain Park**, 700 Lincoln Ave., Paulding, 12:15-1:00 p.m.

• **Cooper Community Branch Library**, 206 North First St., Oakwood, 11:00-

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gail, Wharry, Cameron Williams, Owen Workman

**FRESHMEN:**

4.0 - Cora Agler, Karli Breedlove, Madison Clark, Sean Elder, Ingrid Escobar, Aspen Grace, Rooney Gutierrez Cortes, Addalynne Halter, Kendal Hodge, Lily Leatherman, Kevin Lin, Brynlee Manette, Allison Manz, Chase Manz, Makenna Manz, Evelyn Reyes, Nolan Schlatter, Jezaih Seba Fuentes, Shohawna Shepherd, Kinlee Sherry, Lilly Steingass, Owen Stoller, Kendyl Sunday, Audrey Trejo

3.5-3.99 - Makenna Adams, Jonah Anders, Daniella Borland, Kamryn Burk, Yoselin Cortes Becerra, Paityn Dobbelaere, Wesley Grindstaff, Lexine Johnston, Charity Kochel, Kendall Kohart, Lincoln Manz, Luciana Martinez, Jordyn Nagy, Ma-son Parker, Kristen Rader, Leigha Rohrs, Elliette Roughton, Sage Stork, Harley Troyer

3.0-3.49 - Paisley Bartley, Addison Bassler, Parker Bates, Conner Burkley, Ma-son Gutierrez, Savannah Harris, Brayden Kauser, Bay-lor Kilgore, Karlee Kohart, Gracie Leal, Brynley Manz, Ivan Martinez, Jady Van-Vlerah, Remington Woodin

**PAULDING JH 4<sup>TH</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR**

**SIXTH GRADE:**

All A's - Caroline Miller, Mackenzie Reilly, Nolan Ros-alez, Zarla Ross, Ella Spangler, Isabella "Bella" Wesley and Rya Wirts.

All A's & B's - Georgiana "Georgie" Arend, Kiersten Arend, Cristopher Bautista

Enriquez, Ava Brownell, Lonzo Copeland, Carter Crossland, Troy Dunbar, Jase Frederick, Isabella "Bella" Gonzales, Leigha Hahn, Alexis Kennedy, Cooper Laney, Cadence Lee, Boe Mar-tin, Maggie Martinez, Rebeka "Beka" Mericle, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Miller, Sage Paput-sakis-Mead, Avery Parrett, Christopher Pender, Angelica "Angel" Reno, Delilah "DJ" Rymer, Jeremiah Sajuan, Kait-lynn Seymour, Sophia Smith, Bristyl Stoller, Zoey-Nichole "Zoey" Watson, Landen White and Milo Workman.

**SEVENTH GRADE:**

All A's - Kyra Aldred, Tea-gan Bland, Cooper Boroff, Edalynne "Edda" Hardt, Michael Hastings, Alexandria "Allie" Manz, Connor Manz, Zoey Manz, Kaylee Pack, Jack Roddy and Kinley Sunday.

All A's & B's - Alanna Bassler, Liam Batt, Hunter Bullinger, Mia Cameron, Eva Densmore, Andrew "Drew" Fry, Joseph "Joey" Griffith, Raelyn Haynes, Carlos Lechuga, Ryan Lin, Jaxson Lindsey, Margaux Luty, Kyler Manz, Ximena "Sofi" Mar-tinez, Adalyn Miller, Carter Naugle, Clara Nicholson, Jaden Norling, Kinsley Pease, Melissa Ramirez Cortes, William "Liam" Repka, Perla Reyes, Lucy Riethman, Kolten Ringler, Devin Scott, Cierra Smith and Treenit Valle.

**EIGHTH GRADE:**

All A's - Katherine Arend, Annaleise "Anna" Baughman, Finnegan "Finn" Bradford, Madison Durham, Elayna Kleman, Symon Manz, We-ston Manz, Avaeah Mezuk, Lylah Schlueter and Hudson Spangler.

All A's & B's - Larissa "Larissa Cristhal" Bautista En-riquez, Kimber Boroff, Leg-

end Buckler, Nahla Carlisle, George Carnahan, Harrison "Harry" Coil, Abisai Escobar, Maria Silvia "Maria" Gastelum Lopez, Brayden Keeling, Vic-tor Lechuga, Carlie Lero, Mi-randa Lewis, Ariadna "Aria" Meza Herrera, Balan Miller, Gavin Parrett, Piper Pease, Kenneth "Kenny" Peffley, Gage Ramey, Sophia Speel-man, Mason Weible and Ella Zimmerman.

**ANTWERP SCHOOL BOARD HEARS UPDATES ON HOUSING PROJECT, SUMMER PROGRAMS AND FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

The Antwerp Board of Ed-ucation met Thursday May 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the BOE Room

• The meeting opened with Paulding County Economic Development Director Tim Copsey sharing information regarding the upcoming Antwerp Square housing project and timeline for con-struction of the infrastructure aspect of the project including water, sewer, electricity, and roadways.

• Treasurer Kristine Stu-art presented the April finan-cial report and shared with 83% of the fiscal year com-pleted, the district has re-ceived 92.76% of its projected revenue and spent 74.44% of its projected budget.

• MS/HS Principal Jessie Arnold praised our custodial crew for their efforts and preparation of setting up for the May 17th graduation cere-mony. Ms. Arnold also thanked individuals for their work with our spring athletic teams.

Ms. Arnold shared that the MS/HS Summer School pro-gram will begin May 26th and run for a two week time frame.

• Elementary Principal Doug Billman shared end-of-year activities and thanked the PTO for their efforts with the following activities; Indiana Wild, Field Day, AR Picnic, 5th Grade Fun Day, and Staff Appreciation Coffee and Treats.

• Mr. Billman also recog-nized the following for being awarded the Student of the Month (April and May)

• Young 5's: Wesley Ladd, Marcus Friend

• Kindergarten: Hank Mowery, Andersen Hughes, Ivy Thieme, Sawyer Hamrick, Cash Ladd, Oaklynn Wells

• 1st Grade: Freya Chafin, McKenna Johnson, Amelia Otto, Perry Ganger

• 2nd Grade: Brynley Bis-sell, Max Hahn, Jasper Sweeney, Kynsley Messman, Braxton McVay, Mackenzi

Smith

• 3rd Grade: Ethan Flanary, Owen Wells, August Gordon, Landon Myers, Thatcher Friend, Grace Shull

• 4th Grade: David Kenner, Kinley Gordon, Maryn Cot-trell, Addy Chrisman

• 5th Grade: Owen Rhone-house, Grace Kobee, Beckett Zuber, Damian Johnson, Ad-die Straley, Ashlynn Dunham

• Mr. Billman was thrilled to report that 68 students in Grades K-5 have signed up for the 8-week summer My Read-ing Academy and My Math Academy game-based learn-ing programs and will be monitored by four elementary teachers. Mr. Billman also shared that a Bike to School event is scheduled for June 17th and is part of our Safe Routes to School grant.

• In his Superintendent re-port, Dr. Miller shared praises for both principals, saying their leadership made the school year a huge success. He shared positive preliminary results from state testing. Su-perintendent Miller also shared his leadership goals and objectives associated with school safety, academics, stu-dent & staff wellness, and fa-cilities for the 2026-2027 school year. Dr. Miller also shared that with the assistance of the Ohio Department of Education & Workforce, a new foreign language teacher from Spain will arrive in the district in late July. Spanish language teacher Delilah Del-gado will replace Lola Re-vuelta Cortes who will return back to Spain after having spent the past three years serving as the district's foreign language teacher.

• Dr. Miller also thanked district resident Sue Meyer for her financial donation toward the start-up of an Agri-Sci-ence program for the 2026-2027 school year.

• Dr. Miller shared with the Board several construction activities that will start up this summer including the con-struction of a new en-trance/exit to the elementary school office, construction of a new bus garage, and renova-tion of the interior and exte-rior of the Field House.

• Consent Items: See Board Agenda. All items were approved.

• The next Board of Educa-tion meeting is set for Thurs-day, June 25th at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

*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 mes-sengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or at-tempt to justify a physical at-tack 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 con-sidered 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 re-ceived by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publica-tion. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.*

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*Antwerp, OH 45813*

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The United States has a strong Christian heritage. A lot of attention, though, in the news lately has been given to the Islamic religion. Vast differences between the two are what I want to discuss here.

All people by nature are not as good, or kind, or shar-ing, or as loving as we should be. We make mistakes, hurt other people, and often do things we later regret.

Here-in lies the difference between the two.

We need forgiveness from time to time of offenses (sins) that we commit against God and/or other people. It is in our fallen nature.

Christianity offers that for-giveness because Jesus is our substitute, He paid the price for our sins. We can start over, so to speak, give thanks for the forgiveness, and pray to do better. We are FREE, with God's help, to continue to live life to the best of our ability. He gives us a second chance. Even our justice system seeks

to rehabilitate.

No such forgiveness exists in Islam. When one commits a sin, they will pay dearly for that offense themselves, sometime with their lives. There is no substitute. If you are caught stealing, for exam-ple, they may cut off your hand. There is no mercy or rehabilitation. Their adher-ents must live in constant fear to be perfect (something we can never attain to, by the way).

Can you imagine for a mo-ment what life would be like if we had a sword over our head ready to be swung as soon as we fail? That is what Islam of-fers. Walk the line, or pay with, perhaps, your life!

In Christianity, we strive to do better out of love for Jesus who died on the cross in our place. Fear does not drive be-havior, Love does.

America is not perfect, but we are FREE! And in Christ, we are forgiven. God, con-tinue to bless the USA!

—Paul Grant

Paulding, OH

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

The abortion pill now ac-counts for 65% of the abor-tions performed in the killing of our precious babies. Any-one can obtain mail-order abortion pills to deliver to any unsuspecting pregnant moth-ers--evil boyfriends, hus-bands, traffickers, or the mother herself. After taking the pill, the mother can face the results of the pill all alone with all of its complications like sepsis, hemorrhaging, and undetected ectopic pregnancy and looking down and seeing her aborted dead baby.

God help all of us to put an end to abortion and euthana-sia and the killing of our fel-low citizens!

Thanks & Blessings,

—Judy McCalla

Respect for Life

Hicksville, OH

**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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# AREA ATHLETES REPRESENTED NORTHWEST OHIO AT OHSAA STATE TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Wayne Trace Track team sent 12 athletes to Columbus for State competition: 4x200m and 4x400m girls relay teams, 4x400m boys relay team, Eli Treece, and Caroline Winans. Photo from Wayne Trace Track & Field Facebook page.

**STATE QUALIFIERS**

**EMILY LAKER**  
**AMELIA GRAHAM**  
**KORA ZUBER**  
**MIA STOYE**

**CORBIN SARGENT**

**AMELIA GRAHAM**

**MIA STOYE**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

Antwerp Track team sent seven athletes to Columbus for State competition: 4x200m and 4x400m girls relay teams, Corbin Sargent, Amelia Graham and Mia Stoye. Photos by Engaging Exposures Photography and art design by Kelsey Kauser.



Paulding Track team sent 2 athletes to Columbus for State competition: Elliette Roughton and Kayleigh Dunham. Photo from Paulding Track & Field Facebook page.

COLUMBUS - Several athletes from Paulding, Wayne Trace, and Antwerp High Schools represented northwest Ohio at the OHSAA State Track and Field Championships held June 4-6 at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of The Ohio State University.

The three schools combined to qualify athletes in nine events following strong

performances at regional competition held May 28-30.

Paulding was represented by standout junior Elliette Roughton, who qualified in two events. Roughton earned a fourth-place finish in the girls long jump at the regional meet to secure her spot at state. She also qualified in the girls 100-meter hurdles after placing fourth in the regional finals. Teammate Kayleigh

Dunham joined her in the hurdles, finishing fifth overall to earn a state berth. Elliette Roughton finished 10th overall in both 100H and long jump in her State run. Kayleigh Dunham was set to advance to the 100H final on Friday afternoon (6/5).

Also competing at the regional meet for the Panthers was Achilles Mead, who placed 14th in the boys 1600-meter run to conclude a successful season.

Wayne Trace sent 12 athletes to Columbus, highlighted by Caroline Winans, who earned a fourth-place finish in the girls pole vault at regionals to qualify individually for the state championships (results were not available at press time).

The Lady Raiders also qualified two relay teams via statewide wild card berths. The girls 4x200-meter relay team of Kenzie Ogle, Lilly Shepherd, Careen Winans, and Caroline Winans advanced after posting one of the fastest non-automatic qualifying times in the state. The same quartet also qualified in the girls 4x400-meter relay. The 4x200 team finished 14th at the State finals, and the 4x400 team finished 12th at the State finals.

In the boys division, Wayne Trace's state qualifiers included Eli Treece in the boys 400-meter dash, and the boys 4x400-meter relay team - Corbin Varner, Reece Olwin, Reece Morehead, Eli Treece, Jaxon Cook - Alt. Eli and the 4x400 team, competed in the finals on Friday afternoon (look for those results next week.).

Antwerp qualified athletes in four events after an outstanding regional performance. Amelia Graham secured a third-place finish in the girls pole vault by clearing 10 feet, 4 inches. Graham also helped lead the Lady Archers' 4x100-meter relay team of Kora Zuber, Emily Laker, and Mia Stoye to a third-place finish and a new school record of 50.10 seconds.

The girls 4x200-meter relay team of Graham, Zuber, Laker, and Stoye captured regional runner-up honors with a school-record time of 1:44.18 to advance to state competition.

Stoye also qualified for State individually in the girls 300-meter hurdles after placing fourth at regionals.

On the boys side, Corbin Sargent represented Antwerp in the regional 3200-meter run, posting a time of 9:31.82.

The state qualifiers from Paulding, Wayne Trace, and

Antwerp earned their places among Ohio's top high school track and field athletes through strong performances at the regional level and represented their schools and communities on the state's biggest stage during the OHSAA State Track and Field Championships.

## ANTWERP ELEMENTARY 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

### THIRD GRADE:

All A's - Whitney Miller, Anya Moore, Sawyer Parisot, Coralyn Smith, Lane Zuber, Stella Gaisford, Greta Kober, Owen Larson, Adalind Muir, Landon Myers, Ethan Taylor, Duke Wiesehan, Evelyn Yenser, Liam Gill, Elise Graham, Jett Johnson, Abel Kauser, Zeke Laker, Deana Miller

All A's & B's - Emmagrace Baumert, Emberly Dunderman-Hutchinson, Ameila Dunham, Maxx Reith, Leah Ruffing, Owen Wells

### FOURTH GRADE:

All A's - Irenia Hand, Mo Reyes, Benson Slattman, Joanna Zuber, Maryn Cottrell, Everly Glenn, Payton Heine, Jaxton Schilt, Nash Zartman

All A's & B's - Cambria Beregszazi, Riley Budd, Azlyn Foster, Kinley Gordon, Eve Graham, Matias Rivera, Braxton Schneider

### FIFTH GRADE:

All A's - Hadley Bissell, Addison Griffiths, Maddie Hogans, Grace Kobee, Ensley Parisot, Skyler Pierce, Wayne Zielke, Paizley Cover, Mason Ganger, Damian Johnson, Leni Johnson, Bristol Kauser, Parker Schmidt, Jocelyn Skinner, Reece Bidlack, Aria Feasby, Addie Straley, Carter Taylor, Anna Wieschart, Blakely Geesey,

All A's & B's - Deacon Hitzeman, Braxton Messman, Keegan Moreno, Roberta Poppe, Owen Rhonehouse, Brevyn Eicher, Greysyn Hemmiller, Blade Ruffing, Lydia White, Riley Henschen, Rowan Morrow, Cole Schneider, Thatcher Friend, Hadley Jackson, Lilah Martienes, Grace Shull, Kimber Weible, Zac Barker, Ava Fidler, Julian Karas, Deacon Miller, Madison Muir, Lyric Smith, Kaydence Woolace, Beckett Zuber, Ashlynn Dunham, Roman Laker, Sutton Malfait, Hudson Martienes, Soren Stevens

## ANTWERP JH/HS 4<sup>th</sup> NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

\*Denotes 4.0

### SENIORS:

Gold Card 4.0-3.67 (with no grade less than a B-) - Gwendolyn Carter, Marcelo Cruz, \*Leigha Doster, \*Sara Farr, \*Dylan Hahn, \*Ella Hughes, \*Miley Jewell, Addison Lehman, Estee Lichty, Lillyanna McKay, Zaine McMichael, Harlee Moore, \*Mara Phlipot, \*Hampton Rogge, Taylor Stiebling, Lauren Walters, Raelynne Zuber

Blue Card 3.66-3.33 (with no grade less than a C+) - Krystal Bradbury, Amelia Graham, Halley Hathaway, Kane Hines, Haydyn Lengacher

Honor Roll 3.32-3.0 (with no grade less than a C) - Kalli Billman, Camryn McAlexander, Taylor Shull

### JUNIORS:

Gold Card - \*Briley Bagley, Lucy Conley, Macclaren Ehrhart, \*Keegan Gray-Wyckoff, Josie Hahn,

\*Aiden Hook, Eliana Hormann, Alyssa Lawson, Tyler Overman, Gabriella Snyder, Allison Sproles, Keira Spyker  
Blue Card - Blake Gribler, Jennifer Lawhorn, Alexis Otto, Weston Rhonehouse  
Honor Roll - Roman DeLong, Lexy Hicks, Emily Laker, Michael Rorhs, Nathan Sanders

### SOPHOMORES:

Gold Card - Bryceton Barker, Gage Barker, Tucker Doster, Avery Honigford, \*Braxton Peters, Kati Phares, Allison Rice, Franco Rivera, Anabelle Saylor, Triston Schilt

Blue Card - Carter Baumert, Alia Clem, Reese Franklin, Brayden Fuller, Lilly Halsey, Kaira Jones, Taylor Lockhart, Jason McKay, Elise Meyer, Kinzey Parrish, Clara Rohrs, Jazmine Yanez, Anneliese Zijlstra

Honor Roll - Hudson Bagley, Gabriella Gross, Camden Herber, Noah Lucas, Alyssa Phillips, Kora Zuber

### FRESHMEN:

Gold Card - \*Simon Conley, Pearce Cottrell, Alaina Reinhart

Blue Card - Gianna Laker, Allison Miller, Annabelle Mowery, Evan Overman, Bailey Traxler

Honor Roll - Addison Friend, Brooklynn Lawson, Robert Montgomery, Lorelai Mylek, Garrett Robbins

### EIGHTH GRADE:

Gold Card - Eliza Cline, Hayden Grant, Anderson Honigford, Isaac Meyer, Mackenzie Myers, Briggs Zartman

Blue Card - Layla Bermejo, Parker Bermejo, Conner Fidler, Isaac Friend, Kyler Johnson, Luke Jones, Alivia Kiracofe, Parker Lucas, Marshall Rice, Benton Rogge, Jordan Steel, Kolton Stuckey, Bentley Taylor

Honor Roll - Hannah Bradbury, Bradyn Coleman, Ava Dunham, Jameson Graham, Carson Hughes,

Cooper Nestleroad, Braelyn Putnam, Gabriel Wenzlick, Rylan Winslow, Christopher Yanez

### SEVENTH GRADE:

Gold Card - \*Carter Bagley, Carter Beregszazi, \*Conley Bissell, \*Quinne Bradbury, Aaron Delgado, \*Aubree Feehan, \*Braxton Fidler, Destiny Getz, Kendall Heine, \*Dalton Hines, Adrian Hogans, Maria Isabel Isodoro, Juliet Jones, \*Charlotte Kauser, Jocelyn Laker, \*Josephine Laker, Jameson Malfait, Samuel Montgomery, Makenzie Muir, \*Julian Rivera, Luke Saylor, Adelynne Slattman, \*Serenity Smith, Brady Stairhime, \*Sylvie Zartman, \*Lily Zijlstra, \*Cy Zuber, Kennedy Zuber

Blue Card - Keigan Custer, Maddox Gladieux, Colt Lockhart, Addysonn McKay, Bradynn Miller

Honor Roll - Audreylynn Comer, Nora Conley, Maddix Foust, Kaylie Kapperman, Owen Parisot, Stella Schmidt, Lane Sensabaugh

### SIXTH GRADE:

Gold Card - Brock Barker, Shyahna Barkley, Adelle Cline, Missouri Cottrell, Elliot Henschen, \*Annabelle James, \*Olivia Kosch, \*Lilian Mowery, \*Lauren Overman, \*Lucas Phillips, \*Quintin Reyes, \*Cora Rohrs, \*Greyson Smith, Emmett Wurster, Ulrik Zijlstra, June Zuber

Blue Card - Grace Beck-Bragg, Olivia Bennett, Preston Bradley, Soren Conley, McKenzie George, Bennett Graham, Layton Ladd, Brody Smith, Ava Starr, Raven Swary, Madison Wiesehan

Honor Roll 3.32-3.0 (with no grade less than a C) - Blair Bowlin, Aria DeVault, Sophia Friend, Aubree Frost, Jesstin Getz, Waylon Hounshell, Ellie Kemerer, Oliver McCague, Harper Morrow, Zooley Mylek, Jameson Reeb, Rylee Slattman, Sebastian Yanez

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## COUGARS BREAK THROUGH IN NINTH TO END WOODLAN’S TOURNAMENT RUN



Freshman Amelia Riley earns the first hit of the game as she taps the ball just over the pitcher as second baseman misses it! More pictures at [engagingexposures.com](http://engagingexposures.com)

WOODBURN, Ind. — For eight innings, the Woodlan Lady Warriors matched Central Noble pitch for pitch and inning in a tense regional softball showdown on June 2. But the Cougars finally broke through in the ninth inning, scoring four runs to claim a 4-0 victory and bring Woodlan’s postseason run to an end.

The regional contest was a classic pitchers’ duel through regulation and into extra innings. Neither team was able to push a run across the plate during the first eight innings as both defenses repeatedly came up with key plays. Woodlan managed just two hits in the game while Central Noble collected eight, but the Warriors’ defense and pitching kept the contest scoreless deep into extra innings.

Woodlan’s only hits came from freshman Amelia Riley and sophomore Ellce Krauter, who each finished 1-for-3 at the plate. Riley also accounted for both of the Warriors’ stolen bases.

Central Noble ace Grace Swank proved difficult to solve throughout the afternoon. The senior pitcher threw a complete-game shutout, allowing only two hits while striking out 20 Woodlan batters over nine in-

nings. She did not issue a walk and faced just 30 hitters in the dominant performance.

Lucy McHenry carried the load in the circle for Woodlan, pitching eight strong innings. The junior allowed seven hits and three earned runs while striking out eight. Sophia Martin also saw action, pitching one inning and allowing one run. Together, the Warriors’ pitchers held Central Noble scoreless through eight innings before the Cougars erupted in the ninth.

Central Noble’s offense was led by Kaitlyn Tilley, who went 3-for-5 with a run scored and an RBI. Grace Swank added two hits, a run and an RBI, while Molly Mann contributed a hit, a run and an RBI. Katie Forker also drove in a run for the Cougars.

Woodlan’s defense recorded 27 putouts and 11 assists, committing two errors in the contest. Addison Klotz was credited with 10 putouts, while Ellce Krauter added 10 putouts behind the plate.

The loss ended an impressive season for the Lady Warriors, who finished with a 25-6 record and advanced to the regional round after a successful postseason run. Central Noble improved to 25-6 and advanced with the 4-0 extra-inning victory.

## WOODBURN LIONS CLUB FATHER’S DAY DONUTS

Come out and pick-up a couple of dozen Donuts for Father’s Day. The Woodburn Lions Club will have their Famous Donuts on Saturday, June 13th from 7:00–11:00 a.m. We will be in the parking lot by the Clock Tower in Woodburn. Proceeds will be used for Donut trailer maintenance. Your next opportunity to get donuts will be July 11th. Your support is greatly appreciated.

## SENATE PRESIDENT ROB MCCOLLEY SECURES MILLIONS FOR DISTRICT IN CAPITAL BUDGET

Senate President Rob McColley announced the passage of Ohio’s new Capital Budget, securing nearly \$10 million for community projects in the 1st Senate District.

Every two years the Ohio General Assembly passes a Capital Budget that provides funding for school construction and community projects around the state.

Senate Bill 450 invests \$3.7 billion in Ohio and passed unanimously in the Senate during Wednesday’s voting session.

"This funding makes a difference that people will notice here at home in the 1st District," said Senate President Rob McColley. "I'm pleased that our parks, fairgrounds, and recreational areas will continue to be destination places for our neighbors and families."

Here is a list of all the projects that received Capital Budget dollars in the 1st Senate District.

- Defiance County:
  - Moats Expansion \$575,000
  - Veterans Memorial Park at Latty’s Grove \$315,768
  - Hicksville Playground Equipment \$387,900
  - Hicksville Huber Opera House & Civic Center Sound System \$46,332
- Fulton County:
  - Legacy Center Recreation Improvements \$461,125
  - Cannonball - Wabash Trail Project \$230,000
  - Wauseon Historical 4-H Steer Barn \$42,500
- Hancock County:
  - Findlay Defense Incubator / SCIFF project \$1,200,000
  - Hancock Park District Pond Improvement Project \$300,000
  - Jenera Arlington Park Safety and Connectivity \$255,000
  - Findlay Greenspace Improvement Project \$250,000
  - McComb Cloe Greiner Park Amphitheater \$220,000
  - Mt. Blanchard Community Pool Improvements \$210,500
  - Findlay Discovery Play Area \$100,000
  - Children’s Museum of Findlay Improvements \$50,000
  - Boy Scout Dan Beard and Boone Cabin Projects \$150,000
- Hardin County:
  - Historic Adad Railroad Depot Rehabilitation \$220,000
  - Village of Alger Park Project \$20,000
  - Hardin County Fairgrounds 4-H Livestock Project \$750,000
- Henry County:
  - Northwest State Workforce Development Center (NSWDC) \$500,000

- Memorial Park \$192,100
- Historic Ranzau Blacksmith Shop \$156,500
- Deshler Community Recreation Center \$124,312
- The Ridge Project \$50,000
- Deshler Community Pool and Parks Improvements \$29,587
- Logan County:
  - Stokes Lakeview Park Improvement Project \$212,500
  - Indian Lake Gateway Sign \$30,000
  - Indian Lake Chippewa Kayak Launch \$17,000
- Paulding County:
  - Paulding County Fairgrounds Restroom Improvements \$121,193
  - Payne Community Park Accessibility Project \$60,000
  - Riverside Memorial Park Pavilion \$58,000
  - Flatrock Park Improvement Project \$37,500
- Putnam County:
  - Deters Park Expansion \$362,500
  - Ottawa Memorial Park \$301,600
  - YMCA of Putnam County Recreation Project \$240,000
- Van Wert County:
  - Van Wert County Research and Genealogy Center \$400,000
  - Stadium Park Shelter House \$250,000
  - YWCA of Van Wert County Facility and Clinic \$250,000
  - Van Wert Civic Theatre Project \$100,000
  - Convoy Opera House Roof and Annex \$40,000
- Williams County:
  - Pioneer Clearfork Nature Trail \$472,500
  - Edgerton River Park \$350,000
  - Montpelier Community Aquatic Center \$200,000

## DOCTOR IN THE FAMILY



Cassidy Kurita, daughter of Babette (Whitaker) and Makoto Kurita received her Doctorate degree from UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. She is now doing her residency at Duke University Hospital.

Younger sister, Remi finished her Masters in Geo Science and got accepted to the University of South Carolina for her PHD receiving paid

tuition and a stipend for 4 years.

Cassidy and Remi Kurita are also the granddaughters of Nancy and the late Pete Whitaker.

Mother Babette is originally from Scott Ohio and a graduate of Wayne Trace High School. Father Makoto is from Tokyo. They currently reside in Texas.

- West Unity Park Recreational Trail \$65,000
- The 1st Senate Districts covers all of Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Paulding, Putnam, Van Wert, Williams Counties, and part of Fulton County

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# THE LEFT TURN



Nick Hoffman takes home \$100,057 for his win at Mansfield Speedway Photo credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

The World of Outlaw Late Models were at the newly refurbished Mansfield Speedway last Friday, May 29th and Saturday, May 30th for two nights of racing. Friday the Outlaws were to race for the standard \$12,000.00 to win first place and on Saturday night, they would race for \$57,000.00 in the 57 Special around the ½ mile oval. This didn't happen. A local race fan from Mansfield shocked the drivers and spectators at intermission both nights. On Friday he announced that he would pay \$100,000.00 to whoever won the feature. It was the talk of the racing world and social media message boards went crazy. He came back Saturday and gave another \$100,000.00 to the feature winner.

Here's a box score from Friday at Mansfield. Eathan Dotson's 16.468 earned him the quickest time. The four heat race winners Eathan Dotson, Brandon Overton, Tyler Erb and Ricky Thornton Jr. Thornton started on the pole for the feature. The feature was won by "Turbo" Tyler Erb and the \$100,000.00. 2nd Brandon Overton, and 3rd Bobby Pierce.

Saturday night at Mansfield for the 57 Special #2 for the World of Outlaw Late Models. Mooresville North Carolina's Nick Hoffman set the pace with a 16.979 around the half mile oval. The 4 heat winners Nick Hoffman, Gar-

rett Alberson, Josh Rice, and Trey Mills. The feature winner and Top 3, 1st Nick Hoffman \$100,057.00, 2nd Garrett Alberson \$25,000.00, and 3rd Hudson O'Neal \$15,000.00.

The High Limit Series was in our area last Friday and Saturday. On Friday they ran a co-sanctioned show with the All Star Circuit of Champions at Lawrenceburg. 29 Sprints checked in. Kyle Larson set fast time in qualifying 12.148. Heat winners were Tanner Thorson, Parker Price-Miller and Rico Abreu. Rico Abreu parked his car in Victory Lane, Kyle Larson 2nd and Parker Price-Miller 3rd, and Giovanni Scelzi.

Butler Motor Speedway in Quincy Michigan hosted the High Limit Series on Saturday for the Mace Thomas Classic. Brent Marks quick time 12.801. Heat winners Tanner Holmes, Tyler Courtney, Danny Sams III, and Justin Peck. Tanner Thorson won the Dash. The A main Top 3, 1st Aaron Reutzel, 2nd Brent Marks, 3rd and Tyler Courtney.

Attica Raceway Park ran 4 classes of cars Friday. May 29th. Cap Henry set fast time 12.256 in the 410 Sprints. Feature winners: 410 Winged Sprints Cap Henry, UMP Late Models Devin Sheils, 305 Winded Sprints Bryan Sebetto, and Fremont Dirt Trucks Shawn Valenti.

Limaland Motorsports Park had the Keysor Memorial, Friday, May 29th for the

Thunderstock class, paying the winner \$1,500. The Non-winged Great Lakes Traditional Sprint were in town for their first appearance in 2026, along with the UMP Modifieds and The Dirt Trucks. The four feature winners: Great Lakes Traditional Sprints Ricky Lewis, Thunder Stocks, Jeff Matheny, UMP Modifieds Kevin Grilliot, and Dirt Trucks Rolly Heyder.

Fremont Speedway (The Track Action Built), Saturday, May 30th had a regular show, featuring the 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints, 305 Winged Sprints and the Fremont Dirt Trucks. One track record fell Saturday in qualifying, Shawn Valenti set Dirt Trucks fast time with a 16.910 and that's a new track record. Feature winners 410 Winged Sprints Kalib Henry, 305 Sprints Bryan Sebetto and Fremont Dirt Trucks Shawn Valenti.

Saturday, May 30th Oakshade Raceway had 4 classes in action. In the Dirt UMP Late Models, Terry Rushlow turned the fastest lap 15.272. 24 UMP Late Models checked in, ready to battle it out. The feature winners in all classes DIRT UMP Late Models Steve Kester, Late Model Sportsmen Josh Robertson, Dominator Super Stocks Mason Luttrell, and Sport Compacts Ryan Okuley.

Until next week, keep your wheels down, Ron Out! www.facebook.com/ohiosportsblitz/

## PAULDING HIGH SCHOOL 2026 SENIOR AWARDS/ SCHOLARSHIPS

Senior Awards were held at Paulding High School on May 6, 2026. Members of the PHS Class of 2026 received over \$100,000.00 in scholarships

**PHS FOOTBALL PARENTS CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS:** Colten Hunt, Jackson Griffith

**OHIO GOVERNOR'S MERIT SCHOLARSHIP:** Hunter Harwell, Trenton Manz, Tessa Metcalf, Thad Schneider, Sheyenne Shepherd

**DIANNE COOPER BOBCAT SERVICE AWARD:** Trenton Manz

**GORMAN FAMILY TRUST SCHOLARSHIPS:** Landen Danberry, Mallory Fisher, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Xander Schwab, Trenton Manz

**IRA HAMMAN SCHOLARSHIP:** Hunter Harwell, Xander Schwab

**JACOB SCHOLARSHIPS:** Rileigh Sanders, Landen Danberry, Addison Hunt, FRANKLIN B WALTERS: Trenton Manz

**SDI LAFARGA COPPERWORKS SCHOLARSHIP:** Jack Schweller

**JOHN PAULDING VFW SCHOLARSHIPS:** Trenton Manz, Jackson Griffith, Jacob Harris, Colton Hunt, Xander Schwab, Clayton Manz

**JP CRAIN SCHOLARSHIPS:** Landen Danberry, Addison Hunt, Jacob Harris, Molly Iler, Clayton Manz, Trenton Manz, Aleah Matty, Hope Peters

**SDI LAFARGA COPPERWORKS SCHOLARSHIPS:** Jack Schweller

**LELA MCGUIRE JEFFERY SCHOLARSHIPS:** Landen Danberry, Mallory Fisher, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Trenton Manz, Xander Schwab

**MELROSE BOOK SCHOLARSHIP:** Mallory Fisher

**MONROE FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP:** Trenton Manz

**IRIS GALLAGHER SCHOLARSHIP:** Makayla Carr, Trenton Manz

**OAKWOOD ALUMNI ASSOC. SCHOLARSHIPS:** Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Xander Schwab

**OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY PTO SCHOLARSHIPS:** Addison Hunt, Xander Schwab

**PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS:** Lucy Breier, Aleah Matty, Logan Winke

**PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP:** Jackson Griffith, Tessa Metcalf, Sheyenne Shepherd

**ST RITA'S HOSPITAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Sheyenne Shepherd

**SYSTECH BOOKSTORE SCHOLARSHIP:** Addison Hunt

**PAULDING EDUCATION ASSOC. SCHOLARSHIPS:** Jacob Harris, Xander Schwab, Trenton Manz, Addison Hunt, Addison Pease

**PAULDING FFA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS:** Kaitlynn Breedlove, Lucy Breier, Jackson Griffith, Jacob Harris, Addison Hunt, Addison Pease

**PEVS BOARD/ADMINISTRATION SCHOLARSHIPS:** Makayla Carr, Landen Danberry, Addison Hunt, Trenton Manz, Addison Pease

**ROSEMARY YOUNG BOOK SCHOLARSHIP:** Makayla Carr

**RUSSELL BAUER SCHOLARSHIPS:** Addison Hunt, Addison Pease

**VIRGIL H. COOPER SCHOLARSHIPS:** Kaitlynn Breedlove, Landon Danberry, Jackson Griffith, Addison Hunt, Trenton Manz, Addison Pease

**NSCC PRESIDENTIAL AWARD:** Lucy Breier, Jackson Griffith, Layla Kramer, Aleah Matty, Renee McCabe, Thad Schneider, Jared Manz, Sheyenne Shepherd

**DR. ORVAL LEE MULLEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Trenton Manz

**CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP:** Jack Schweller

**AMRIZE MEGAWATT SCHOLARSHIP:** Jack Schweller

**GLENER LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION AWARD:** Trenton Manz

**PAULDING BAND BOOSTER'S SCHOLARSHIPS:** Aleah Matty, Lillian Daniels, Renee McCabe

**LOUIS ARMSTRONG JAZZ AWARD:** Tessa Metcalf

**JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA AWARD:** Hunter Harwell

**PATRICK S. GILMORE AWARD:** Renee McCabe, Isabelle Lamb, Lillian Daniels

**AMERICANISM AWARD:** Jacob Harris, Tessa Metcalf

**PAULDING PUTNAM COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS SCHOLARSHIP:** Trenton Manz

**MARINE CORPS SCHOLASTIC EXCELLENCE AWARD:** Laila Stiltner

**MARINE CORPS DISTINGUISHED ATHLETE AWARD:** Lucy Breier, Miguel Martinez

**SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM:** Mallory Fisher, Hunter Harwell, Aleah Matty, Tessa Metcalf, Jack Schweller

# THE COMPOUND RETURNS AS CULINARY SPONSOR FOR 2026 DEFIANCE AREA FOUNDATION GALA



Pictured above (l-r) are Chelsie Schroeder - DAF Marketing Director and Nate Watkins - The Compound superintendent.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) is pleased to announce that The Compound has returned as the Culinary Sponsor for the 2026 Gala with a generous contribution of \$15,000.

This sponsorship will provide catering for the event, prepared by Sweetwater, offering guests an elevated dining experience as part of the evening's festivities.

The annual Gala, scheduled for October 3, 2026, brings community members together to celebrate generosity while raising support for the Defiance County Community Fund. This fund allows the Foundation to re-

spond to local needs by awarding grants to nonprofit organizations, schools, and community initiatives throughout the year.

"The continued support from partners like The Compound helps make this event possible and meaningful," said executive director, Chris Yoder, from the Defiance Area Foundation. "Their investment allows us to focus on what matters most - serving our community."

The Defiance Area Foundation extends its sincere appreciation to The Compound for their ongoing commitment to strengthening Defiance County.

**CLASS OFFICERS:** Sheyenne Shepherd, Lucy Breier, Kaitlynn Breedlove, Makayla Carr, Addison Pease, Molly Iler,

**PHS SCHOLAR ATHLETES:** Grady Barton, Addison Pease, Makayla Carr, Izaac Coutts, Colten Hunt, Jackson Griffith, Damian Iliiff, Lucy Breier, Hunter Harwell, Jack Schweller, Brooklyn King, Renee McCabe, Addison Hunt, Laila Stiltner

**OHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE AWARD:** Addison Pease, Jack Schweller

**NFHS NATIONAL AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:** Makayla Carr, Jackson Griffith

**ARCHIE GRIFFIN SPORTSMANSHIP**

**AWARD:** Colten Hunt, Addison Pease

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE:** Xander Bartley, Mallory Fisher, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Colten Hunt, Isabelle Lamb, Jared Manz, Trenton Manz, Aleah Matty, Tessa Metcalf, Hope Peters, Abigail Punches, Thad Schneider, Xander Schwab, Jack Schweller, Sheyenne Shepherd, Laila Stiltner

**48. NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY:** Lucy Breier, Jackson Griffith, Jacob Harris, Addison Hunt, Brooklyn King, Trenton Manz, Renee McCabe, Tessa Metcalf, Addison Pease, Sheyenne Shepherd, Laila Stiltner

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WEST BEND NEWS

Crossword Puzzle

I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM;  
WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

- Across
1. Flavor created using cocoa from cacao beans
3. Ingredient gathered from mountains before mechanical refrigeration existed
5. Colorful topping often added to cones and sundaes
9. Noblewoman often linked to introducing frozen desserts to the French court
10. Country where an early frozen milk-and-rice dessert is believed to have originated
11. Beverage made by blending ice cream and milk
13. Ice cream combining vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry flavors
17. Edible holder commonly used to serve ice cream
18. Traditional shop specializing in frozen treats
19. Country credited with refining many early ice cream recipes
20. American inventor of a hand-cranked ice cream freezer in 1843
21. Flavor known for marshmallows, nuts, and chocolate ice cream
22. Cultured dairy product used to make a popular
- frozen dessert alternative
23. Crisp, sweet cone made from waffle batter
- Down
1. Frozen dessert made with egg yolks for extra richness
2. Japanese rice cake often wrapped around a ball of ice cream
4. First U.S. president known to have purchased large quantities of ice cream
6. Structure used to store ice before modern freezers
7. Ice cream made without eggs in the base mixture
8. Frozen dessert containing fruit and a small amount of dairy
11. Popular flavor featuring mint and chocolate pieces
12. Explorer often credited in legend with bringing frozen dessert ideas to Europe
14. Classic ice cream flavor made from orchid-derived beans
15. Process used to freeze and aerate ice cream mixture
16. European nation that popularized frozen desserts among royalty
- solution on page 11

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The Union Bank Co.

Xander Bartley, Grady Barton, Lucy Breier, Makayla Carr, Landen Danberry, Lilian Daniels, Mallory Fisher, Jackson Griffith, Tyler Hankinson, Jacob Harris, Hunter Harwell, Addison Hunt, Colten Hunt, Molly Iler, Brooklyn King, Layla Kremer, Isabelle Lamb, Jared Manz, Trenton Manz, Miguel Martinez, Aleah Matty, Renee McCabe, Tessa Metcalf, Addison Pease, Hope Peters, Blake Rhonehouse, Rileigh Sanders, Thad Schneider, Xander Schwab, Jack Schweller, Sheyenne Shepherd, Laila Stiltner, Logan Winke, Adan Zacarias

**GRADUATING WITH HONORS 3.5-3.99 AFTER 7 SEMESTERS:** Renee McCabe, Damien Iliff, Lucy Breier, Addison Hunt, Mallory Fisher, Layla Kremer, Xander Schwab, Adan Zacarias, Xander Bartley, Grady Barton, Rileigh Sanders, Lilian Daniels, Abigail Patches, Jackson Laker, Landen Danberry, Addison Shull, Molly Iler, Logan Winke, Makayla Carr, Isaac Coutts, Tyler Hankinson, Hope Peters

**GRADUATING WITH HIGHEST HONORS 4.0 OR HIGHER AFTER 7 SEMESTERS:** Trenton

court costs.

**Christine Adams,** Wauseon, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

**Timothy Dysinger,** Hicksville, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. He was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Anthony Marsicano,** Ohio City, pleaded guilty to a marked lanes violation for crossing a yellow line. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Moises Castillo,** Haviland, pleaded guilty to improper display of license plates. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Issac T. Merschman,** Delphos, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**James Priser,** West Unity, pleaded guilty to failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Kayla Gladieux,** Convoy, pleaded guilty to trespassing and obstructing official business. On the trespassing charge, she was fined \$100, with the fine suspended, and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. She was sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended upon admission to and completion of treatment. On the obstructing official business charge, she was fined \$100, with the fine suspended, and sentenced to 90 days in jail, with the same conditions applying.

**Kaidan Dempsey,** Paulding, pleaded guilty to telephone harassment. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$392 in court costs. Dempsey was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 175 days suspended. Conditions included standard probation, no contact with the victim, 20 hours of community service, evaluation and treatment, completion of an on-line class, a risk assessment, and no use of drugs or alcohol.

**Kathy Cooper,** Oakwood, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Kayla Ohm,** Hicksville, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Blake Slattman,** Defiance, pleaded no contest to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Aiden Harris,** Jackson, Michigan, pleaded guilty to operating a motor vehicle without a valid operator's license and to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$100 on the no operator's license charge and \$50 on the stop sign violation. Court costs of \$97 were assessed.

**Nickolas Leatherman,** Oakwood, pleaded no contest to a seat belt violation and operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$30 on the seat belt charge and \$150 on the unsafe vehicle charge. Court costs of \$97 were assessed.

**Tristan Rich,** Wolcottville, Indiana, pleaded guilty to reckless operation. He was fined \$75 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Tyler Adams,** Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded

guilty to driving under suspension for violating license restrictions. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

**Prabdeep Singh,** Richmond Hill, New York, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

**Jared Sherry,** Payne, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence with a refusal. He was fined \$715 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Sherry was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 150 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from May 7, 2026, through May 7, 2029. Additional conditions included standard probation, an evaluation through Westwood, 20 hours of community service, completion of the Keeping It In Check Program and Online Courses for Courts Program, a risk assessment, no alcohol consumption, and participation in the TAD program for driving privileges.

**Trevaughn A. Martinez,** Fort Lauderdale, Florida, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

**Sarah L. Sajuan,** Paulding, pleaded guilty to improper backing. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Tracey L. Ogle,** Grover Hill, pleaded guilty to failure to yield the right-of-way to a private drive. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**Drayson S. Wenzlick,** Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

**DPLS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET JUNE 9**

[DEFIANCE] – The Finance Committee of the Defiance Public Library System (DPLS) Board of Trustees will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 9, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Defiance Public Library, 320 Fort St., Defiance, to review the May financial reports. Meetings of the DLPS Board and its committees are open to the public.

**SCIENCE CENTRAL TO HOST NATURAL HISTORIES: CENTURIES OF SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATION**

Science Central will present Natural Histories: Centuries of Scientific Illustration, a temporary exhibition exploring the role of illustration in scientific discovery, beginning July 1 and continuing through September 27, 2026. This exhibition is included with general admission.

The exhibition features large-format reproductions of scientific illustrations drawn from the rare book collection of the American Museum of Natural History's Library. Long before the invention of photography, original artwork was one of the few ways to document and share images of organisms, people, and places across the scientific world.

Visitors will experience detailed illustrations created in the pursuit of scientific understanding across disciplines, including zoology and natural history. The exhibition highlights the inter-

section of art and science while showcasing the historical importance of visual storytelling in research and education.

"Natural Histories offers visitors a chance to see how art helped shape scientific discovery for centuries," said Executive Director Mande Mikulski. "These illustrations are not only scientifically important, but visually

stunning and deeply connected to the history of exploration and learning."

The exhibition will be located inside Science Central and included with general admission. Natural Histories: Centuries of Scientific Illustration is organized by the American Museum of Natural History, New York.

For more information, visit ScienceCentral.org.

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE  
OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

The State Bank and Trust, Plaintiff,  
vs.  
Tamara S. Klein, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 25 110

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

220 West Wayne Street, Paulding  
Parcel Number: 30-24S-097-00 & 30-24S-096-00

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

Said premises appraised at One Hundred Twenty Thousand and NO/100 (\$120,000.00) Dollars and cannot be sold for less than two-thirds of that amount on the first sale date.

The first sale date will be on the July 2, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

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

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

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on July 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

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

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

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

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

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

Sheriff Jason K. Landers  
Paulding County, Ohio  
[www.pauldingohsheriff.com](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

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](http://www.pauldingohsheriff.com)  
Matthew A. Miller, Prosecuting Attorney



# SIEGE OF FORT WAYNE 1812



The Siege of Fort Wayne 1812 will take place at the Old Fort on Spy Run Avenue Saturday - Sunday, June 20-21, 2026. It is a living history experience. During the War of 1812, Indiana Territory was home to several conflicts between the United States territorial government and partisan Native American forces backed by the British. Fort Wayne, situated at the confluence of the Three Rivers, was on the front line in a battle that could have decided the fate of the entire Northwest

Territory.

As you enter the grounds of the fort, you will find yourself immersed in a military fort during the War of 1812. Reenactors representing soldiers from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Native American allies will recreate the siege. Observe first-hand the life of the civilians in the camps as they perform their daily activities. There will be demonstrations on period cooking, gardening, clothing, and much more. Local artisans will also be on

hand. The Old Fort will be bustling with activity! Come experience the sound of musket fire and cannons!

No event at The Old Fort would be complete without its Bake Sale. Visitors can indulge in a variety of homemade baked treats. There is also Old Fort-themed merchandise, for those looking to take a piece of history home with them.

The historic ambiance of The Old Fort provides a perfect backdrop for this event. Families and history enthusiasts can explore the buildings of the fort and interact with the reenactors, civilians, and local artisans.

While at the event, you can also check out the new construction. Find out how you can help "Keep the Fort in Fort Wayne".

Historic Fort Wayne, Inc. is a nonprofit organization committed to preserving the rich heritage of Fort Wayne. As a volunteer-driven organization, it relies heavily on community support and donations to continue its mis-

sion of education and preservation.

## PAULDING STUDENT EARNS BACHELOR'S DEGREE FROM CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

CEDARVILLE, OH (06/02/2026) — Audrey Giesige, from Paulding, earned a Bachelor of Arts from Cedarville University.

Cedarville University, an evangelical Christian institution in southwest Ohio, offers undergraduate and graduate residential and on-line programs across arts, sciences and professional fields. With 7,265 students, it is among Ohio's largest private universities and is ranked among the nation's top five evangelical universities in the Wall Street Journal's 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.

Cedarville is also known for its vibrant Christian community, challenging academics and high graduation and retention rates. Learn more at cedarville.edu.

# KOENIG SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



At its recent meeting, the Kiwanis Club welcomed Traci Koenig, Director of Paulding County LifeWise, as its guest speaker. Traci was invited by Kiwanis member, Kevin Stahl.

Koenig provided an overview of the LifeWise program, sharing its history, growth, and future plans. She discussed the program's expansion both locally and nationally and highlighted its mission of providing Bible-based character education to public school students during released time.

According to Koenig, all school districts in Paulding

County currently have students participating in the program at various grade levels. She also shared statistics demonstrating the program's continued growth and impact, along with stories of students whose lives have been positively influenced through their involvement in LifeWise.

Koenig expressed enthusiasm about the program's future and the opportunities that lie ahead in the coming school year. She looks forward to expanding the program's reach and serving even more students throughout Paulding County.

## NSCC & UNION BANK TO HOST FREE WORKSHOP ON BUSINESS FINANCING

Northwest State Community College (NSCC) is hosting a Business Financing Workshop, a free seminar on Tuesday, June 9th, beginning at 4:30 p.m. in the Voinovich Auditorium on the Archbold Campus. The event includes an overview of the CEED Initiative, a presentation about financial readiness and a special presentation by The Union Bank Co.

The workshop is part of CEED to Success, a national pilot program designed to expand entrepreneurship and business financing education for underserved founders, with a focus on veteran-, women-, and minority-owned businesses. Through this initiative, NSCC is partnering with Baker Hill, the program's founder, and the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE) to bring these resources to the local community.

"At NSCC, we are committed to ensuring that every aspiring entrepreneur, especially those from historically underserved communities, has access to the knowledge, resources, and strategic partnerships needed to secure capital and successfully grow their business," said Lisa Becher, NSCC business faculty and the director of the Northwest Ohio Small Business Development Center.

The workshop brings together entrepreneurs, lenders and economic development experts to help attendees navigate the funding landscape. Programming includes an overview of resources for area entrepreneurs, a financing fundamentals presentation led by The Union Bank Co.

"CEED to Success isn't just a program — it's a catalyst for

systemic change," said Dirk Soma, director, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, Baker Hill. "By working alongside NACCE and aligning education, entrepreneurship and local partnerships, we're building resilient ecosystems where underserved entrepreneurs don't just start businesses; they drive lasting, community-centered impact."

This collaboration underscores a shared mission: turning entrepreneurial dreams into tangible success stories by making business loans more accessible — especially for underserved populations.

"Too often, entrepreneurs are told to 'get bankable' without ever being shown what that actually means," said Austin Brown, SBA Manager at The Union Bank Co. "Through CEED, we have an opportunity to demystify the lending process, answer real questions, and help founders understand how to position their businesses for capital access and long-term growth. When financial institutions show up early as educators and partners, not just lenders, the entire small business ecosystem gets stronger."

The importance of this effort is reflected in the broader small business landscape: recent U.S. Census data show that women-owned and minority-owned firms each represent more than one in five employer businesses nationwide, while veteran-owned businesses remain a significant force in communities across the country. As these entrepreneurs continue to grow their economic impact, initiatives like CEED to Success help ensure they also have clearer pathways to the financing knowledge, relationships and resources needed to scale.

RSVP to reserve your spot today! Contact Lisa Becher at LBecher@NorthwestState.edu.

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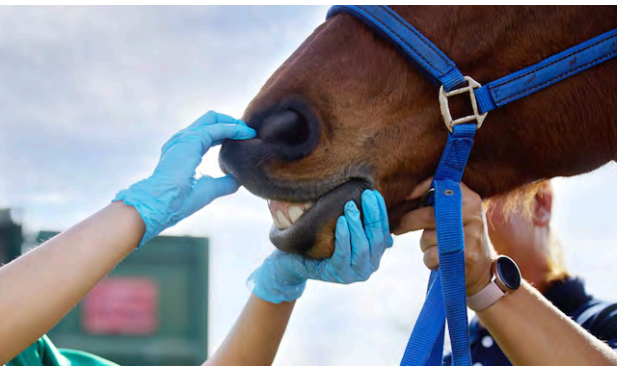


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# CFAES ANIMAL SCIENCES STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM PROGRAM STRENGTHENING THE RURAL VETERINARY WORKFORCE



WOOSTER, Ohio — Rural communities across Ohio and the nation are facing a growing shortage of large animal and equine veterinarians, leaving livestock producers and horse owners with fewer options for animal care. Some rural practitioners are retiring, and many veterinary graduates are pursuing small animal practice instead.

At The Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (CFAES), the Large Animal Rural Veterinary Mentoring Program (LARVMP) is helping close that gap by preparing more students for careers. The program combines hands-on agricultural training with early mentorship designed to strengthen the pipeline of veterinarians needed to support Ohio's livestock and equine industries.

The program allows eligible CFAES students majoring in animal sciences at Ohio State ATI or on the Columbus campus to pursue mentorship and early preparation for veterinary careers connected to the Ohio State College of Veterinary Medicine and expands Ohio State's Veterinary Early Commitment Program.

"One of the most common career goals of students entering the animal-focused majors within the college is to become a veterinarian," said Sara Mastellar, PhD, associate professor and equine programs coordinator at ATI. "We are excited to see that program revised into the Large Animal Rural Veterinary Mentoring Program, which now includes equine instead of focusing solely on food animals."

ATI, CFAES' two-year degree-granting academic unit on the CFAES Wooster campus, provides students with hands-on agricultural and animal sciences education while helping them build foundational skills before transitioning to four-year and professional degree programs.

This year, two ATI students were accepted into Ohio State's veterinary school before changing to Columbus campus to complete their bachelor's degrees.

"[Places] like Ohio State and ATI are essential for keeping this profession alive," said Rhonda A. Rathgeber, DVM, associate veterinarian with Hagyard Field Care, an equine veterinary practice based in Lexington, Kentucky. "By recruiting students from rural

backgrounds and offering specialized training, they help ensure that Ohio's food supply and agricultural economy stay safe."

That preparation begins early at ATI, where students build technical skills through applied learning, animal handling and production-based coursework.

"At Ohio State ATI, our mission is to develop students with high-value technical skills through real-world experiences," said Shaun Wellert, DVM, division chair of animal sciences and technologies at ATI.

Dr. Wellert, a veterinarian who practiced in rural communities, said ATI students gain extensive experience in animal husbandry and production systems while developing practical skills that prepare them for veterinary education and large animal practice.

"ATI students enter veterinary programs with strong technical skills and hands-on livestock experience," Dr. Wellert said.

The Ohio State ATI Equine Center plays a central role in that training.

Located on ATI's 1,725-acre working farm in Apple Creek, the center supports coursework and learning opportunities for students pursuing degrees in equine, animal sciences and related fields. Students gain experience in equine nutrition, breeding, health and facility management while working directly with horses of all ages.

The operation also includes commercial breeding services such as artificial insemination, stallion collection and foaling out mares.

"This spring, there were more than 50 mares foaled out and eight stallions standing at the facility, providing immersive learning experiences for students," Mastellar said.

Those early experiences help students better understand the realities of rural veterinary medicine while developing skills that cannot be replicated in a classroom alone, Dr. Wellert said.

"It is especially important to ensure a continued pipeline of veterinarians who can deliver high-quality, affordable care in rural communities," Dr. Wellert said. "This need is becoming more urgent as a significant portion of the rural veterinary workforce continues to retire."

Industry leaders say the expanded focus on equine medicine comes at a critical time.

"Large animal and equine veterinary practices are currently facing a massive labor shortage," Rathgeber said. "Many new graduates are choosing city-based pet clinics instead because they offer better pay and more predictable hours."

According to the American Association of Equine Practi-

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**MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE: Thursday, June 11 and Friday, June 12, 9-5; Saturday, June 13, 9-? Baby girl NB-6 months, Kids (girls), juniors, women & mens clothing, Home Décor, lamps, small kitchen appliances, toys, books, DVDs and much more. Morrow and Jones families. 406 N Main St., Antwerp, OH p**

tioners, workforce shortages in rural and equine veterinary medicine have been driven by factors including student debt, demanding schedules and difficulties recruiting veterinarians to rural communities.

Dr. Rathgeber said large animal veterinarians also face long travel distances between farms, contributing to burnout and workforce turnover.

Without a steady pipeline of trained veterinarians, she said, many farming communities risk losing access to essential animal health services needed to support livestock operations and equine care.

### USA FARM PROJECTIONS

Tommy Grisafi, a Chicago Board of Trade stock broker discussed grain markets recently. Grisafi says farmers should watch seven things this year when pricing crops. First, watch China and the trade tariffs. A federal judge ruled that all tariff money collected had to be paid back but that could take years of litigation. Second, is the weather in South America. Watch for an indication or scare of a South American drought which could push crop prices up short term. Drought scares are an opportunity to sell. The same goes for USA drought which are more common and are still lingering throughout the country.

Third, watch the corn export demand which has been higher. Grisafi says to market your crops when you can lock in a profit and do not wait too long. Fourth, get crop insurance. With todays high crop inputs for fertilizer (20-25% higher), machinery (25-40% higher), pesticides, and labor; farmers are in a squeeze between lower crop prices and higher input costs.

Fourth, watch your acres mix between corn and soybeans. Grisafi expects more soybeans planted this year due to 20-25% higher fertilizer costs. Last year, the corn/soybean ratio slightly favored planting more corn acres in the Midwest. The problem was that most Midwest farmers who did that, forgot to sell their crop or lock in a profit. Now they have corn to sell yet. Perhaps with the Iran war, they can sell now or should sell now or soon.

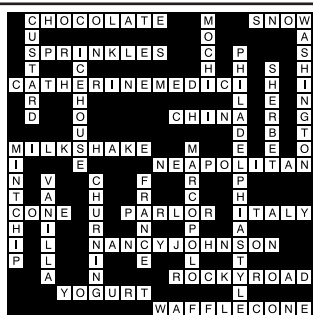
Fifth, last year Texas, The Dakotas, Wisconsin, and Canada had higher than normal corn crop yields due to favorable weather for them. With recent crop price increases, now is a good time to

look at selling old crop inventories. Sixth, storing a crop is not risk free. Grisafi says sell corn and own corn by buying call options. Buy the call options on your first sale of the crop. Then do not second guess yourself. Finally, the big news is the IRAN war which is expected to last 4-5 weeks. If it lasts longer that can be a problem. But most likely this is a short-term selling opportunity.

Jim Wiesemeyer (wiesemeyer@gmail.com) a Washington DC agricultural insider from Virginia also spoke about US agriculture. Jim has free daily report, just email him for free daily insights. Jim expects the Iran war to cost the USA about 1.5 trillion dollars. The economy is good but our national debt has climbed from 18-20 trillion in 2020 (before COVID) to about 37 Trillion and climbing today. That has put a lot of money in peoples pocket but has also cause higher inflation (peaked at 9%).

In the USA, grain producers are losing money along with sugar beet producers (\$300-\$800/A), rice (\$200/Acre) and sugar cane. Live-stock markets are good especially for cattle and hogs. USA Agriculture is in a Depression but not as bad as the 1980's (high inflation, low prices). The price squeeze is real for USA farmers. Land prices remain high as a source of bank assets, but if that declines expect widespread farm sales. Unfortunately, there are many rich traders, doctors, layers etc. waiting for that to happen. We could see significant shifts in farm land ownership from farmers to investors if that happens.

AI is impacting agriculture in a big way. AI is producing smarter and faster robots and it is just beginning. AI generated robots can pick strawberries faster and more efficient than humans, leading to a 10-12% productivity gain. AI is



Crossword solution  
from page 9

helping select better genes within a plant genome, leading to faster and higher crop yield gains. If you take a picture of your crop, it can tell you the growth stage, nutrient deficiencies, and diseases and then recommend solutions (sprays, crop management) to fix that problem immediately. AI is also helping with AG labor shortages.

On foreign policy, Jim says Trump Tariffs are risky for farmers however; they are long overdue. The bad news is the short-term pain from tariffs to AG. China has stopped buying our treasuries and has invested money in South America, especially grain terminals and infrastructure; leading to them buying less soybeans. However; China cannot afford to alienate the USA, so they still buy our soybeans at a cost of \$1.20/bushel more. Even Europe and most central banks are not buying our debt treasuries, so that could cause interest rates to rise long-term. China and Europe seem to be intent on buying gold to de-throne the USA dollar. China has a problem though, their economy is only growing at 5% compared to 10-15% a few years ago; so they are having troubles also. All these factors affect our grain prices, and it can be difficult to sort out.

—James J. Hoorman  
Hoorman Soil Health Services

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# STUDENT-DESIGNED BANNERS BRIGHTEN HAVILAND DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON



By: Lynsey Pease

During her Sophomore year at Wayne Trace High School, Madison Pease used her creativity and design skills to create a series of Christmas and Winter themed banners for the Village of Haviland.

Working with support from her father, Robert Pease and the council President Neal Stoller, Madison designed several Banners that combined festive holiday imagery with symbols that represented the Village and Wayne Trace Raiders. One banner featured a light blue winter background with the message "Merry Christmas" above and a Raider Mascot wearing a Santa Hat. Another, displayed a bright red background with the greeting

"Happy Holidays" and a Raider Mascot placed over a star design.

These banners combined School Spirit with Holiday traditions and were designed to make residents feel connected with their Community.

A third banner welcomed visitors to Haviland with snowflakes, winter colors and the message "Welcome to Haviland, OH, Est. 1892". The banner highlighted the Village's History while celebrating the winter season.

Madison was able to recognize the Community's heritage and create a design that reflected local Pride.

Residents enjoyed seeing the Banners displayed throughout the town and appreciated the combination of Holiday Cheer, School Pride and local history. The designs helped create a welcoming atmosphere and added a festive touch to a small town during the winter months.

## ANTWERP CHAMBER NAMES JAN REEB AS 2026 GEM OF THE YEAR

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce has selected longtime resident Jan Reeb as the recipient of the 2026 Gem of the Year Award. Reeb will be formally honored during Rotary's Day in the Park celebration in August.

A lifelong Antwerp resident, Reeb has spent 75 years calling the village home and graduated from Antwerp High School in 1969. Following graduation, she attended beauty college at Ravenscroft and later opened her own beauty shop, "The Shadow Box," becoming a familiar and friendly face to generations of Antwerp residents.

Throughout her life, Reeb has worn many hats in the community. In addition to operating her beauty shop, she worked as a babysitter for numerous local families and later served for many years as a member of the town council and most recently as Mayor. Her caring personality and ability to connect with people left a lasting impact on many of the children and families she cared for over the years.

Reeb said one of the things she treasures most about Antwerp is the people.

"Your town's only as good as the people in it," Reeb said. "People make the town. You've got to have good people, and I think we do. I think we've got a lot of good people. It's just a great old town, and I'm happy to be a part of it."

She also spoke proudly of the welcoming nature of the village and the way residents look out for one another. Whether visiting local busi-

nesses, attending ballgames, or simply chatting with neighbors, Reeb said she enjoys the sense of connection that comes with living in a small town.

"It amazes me when people call me by name and talk to me," she said. "It's a friendly little town. I love it."

Reeb and her husband John have two sons, Matthew and the late Jason, along with grandchildren and extended family members who remain closely connected to the Antwerp area. She said she is encouraged to see younger families continuing to return to the community and is hopeful for future growth and development in the village.

Nominations submitted on Reeb's behalf repeatedly highlighted her years of dedicated service to Antwerp and the lasting impact she made on the village through her leadership and compassion for residents.

One nomination stated, "Jan showed her long-standing dedication to Antwerp by serving on town council and as Mayor for many years. She demonstrated her commitment to the well-being and growth of our community. Jan put in countless hours to improve Antwerp

by listening to residents and guiding thoughtful decisions to better our town."

Another nomination praised Reeb's decades of service, noting, "20+ years serving on Council and Mayor, she has given many years and time to Antwerp."

Others pointed to her journey from business owner to village leader, writing, "She has given many years to Antwerp - first as a business woman owning a beauty salon and then for our town as an office worker and bookkeeper. She then became a council woman voted in by the Antwerp people. As Council President she replaced Ray DeLong and finished his term, then was voted in as mayor twice before her retirement last year."

Several residents emphasized the personal care Reeb showed toward community members. "She really cared about the people and businesses of our town," one resident wrote. "Please make her our Gem of Antwerp."

Another nomination stated, "She has shown genuine love for our community with all of her years of service in the village. Even when faced with extreme personal challenges she con-

tinued giving the town all she could until she was no longer able. She deserves to be recognized for decades of love, loyalty and dependability to this town. She is a true Gem."

Other nominations credited Reeb's leadership with helping guide improvements and growth throughout the community during her years in office.

When informed she had been selected as this year's Gem of the Year, Reeb said she was both surprised and humbled.

"I'm in shock," she said. "I just can't believe it. I love everybody. I try to be friendly and talk to everybody."

The Gem of the Year Award recognizes individuals who have made a lasting positive impact on the Antwerp community through their service, kindness, and dedication to others. Chamber members said Reeb's lifelong commitment to the village and her warm, caring spirit make her a deserving recipient of this year's honor.

The Antwerp Chamber of Commerce invites the community to join in celebrating Jan Reeb during Rotary's Day in the Park on August 8.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual GOSPEL FEST under the Tent

**Saturday, June 20, 2026**

**1:00pm-6:00pm**

**Oakwood Community Church** invites you to come join us under the Tent for an uplifting afternoon of gospel music, fellowship, and family fun!

Enjoy inspiring worship music, a kids' inflatable bounce house, and obstacle course on the lawn, and a welcoming community atmosphere.

Seating will be provided, but you are also welcome to bring your lawn chairs, arrive in your golf carts, and relax as we worship together.



Food and refreshments will be available, including hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, water, and freeze pops, offered with a free will donation.

We look forward to sharing this special afternoon of worship and fellowship with you!

Oakwood Community Church is located at:  
201 East Harmon St. Oakwood, OH 45873

\*\* See the Oakwood and Melrose Community Church Facebook pages for detailed information

