

The West Bend News

www.westbendnews.net

VOLUME 22 – ISSUE 24

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

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2026

CLASS OF 1976 50 YEAR CLASS REUNION



Reunited and it feels so good! The Antwerp class of 1976 is at it again, this time to celebrate their 50th class reunion! The festivities were held at The MAC Gym in Antwerp, with over 65 classmates and friends in attendance. The event, hosted by Pam (Slight) Helms, and Elaine (Carr) Phillips was deemed a great success. Steve Bechtol of MRB Tunes graciously provided the music, while Stan Spryn prepared a scrumptious buffet including brisket, chicken and sides.

Cupcakes were provided by Kathy (Knapp) Whitney.

Attendees enjoyed a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to the class fund, with the winner Randy Ott donating a portion of his prize back to the fund. Gag gifts were also given to those who were married the longest, had the most grandkids, retired first, travelled the farthest to attend the reunion (Rick Eblen and his wife travelled over 1,100 miles!), and other categories. Classmates were also eligible to win gift cards that were generously do-

nated from local businesses.

Overall, everyone had a wonderful time reminiscing about days past, and catching up on life since then. Attendees visited the memories table which included photos, the 1976 Archers yearbook, and a tribute tree for those who have passed. The class song "We May Never Pass This Way (Again)" by Seals & Crofts brought back memories as it echoed through the crowd.

"And all the secrets in the universe, whisper in our ears. All the years will come and

go

"Take us up, Always up" Organizers wish to thank those who helped with the set up and clean up. Your efforts helped tremendously. Congratulations to the class of 1976 for 50 years of solidarity and friendship. up"

Organizers wish to thank those who helped with the set up and clean up. Your efforts helped tremendously. Congratulations to the class of 1976 for 50 years of solidarity and friendship.

GENE A. BAUGHMAN APRIL 18, 1948 - JUNE 5, 2026



PAULDING, OH:
Gene A. Baughman, age 78, passed away on Friday, June 5, 2026 at Penn State Health-Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

Gene was born on April 18, 1948 in Paulding, OH to the late Ambrose Lawrence "Bus" and Aerial Lucille (Smith) Baughman. On December 23, 1972 he married Mary Ann Breitwieser, who survives. He was a Paulding High School graduate, class of 1966, where he at one time held the record for most free throws in a single game. Gene proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. Gene was the 4th generation President and CEO of Baughman Tile Company. He was a 33rd degree Mason, Flat Rock Lodge 580 in Payne, OH and a member of the Scottish Rite, Toledo, OH. Gene was a proud member of the Paulding community and gave back to his community in more ways than one. During the holidays, Gene proudly put up his Christmas lights display at his home, where the entire community could enjoy. He was a devoted Ohio State Buckeyes fan and a fairweather New York Yankees fan. Gene loved hockey especially when his boys were playing.

(Continued on Page 2)

PAULDING COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING 4-H & FFA YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT



"You've GOAT this! No kidding!"

PAULDING – Youth exhibitors from across Paulding County were recognized for their accomplishments during the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair, held June 6-13 at the Paulding County Fairgrounds. Throughout the week, 4-H and FFA members showcased their hard work and dedication through livestock exhibitions, project

judging, skillathons, and contests.

The fair schedule featured Dog Show and FFA Still Projects on June 7; Goat Show and Rabbit Show on June 8; Horse Show, Poultry Show, 4-H Clothing Show and Swine Show on June 9; Rabbit Show, Sheep Show, Beef and Dairy Show, and Swine Show on June 10; 4-H Family and Consumer Science judging and Horse Show on June 11; 4-H



"That'll do, pig. That'll do."

Natural Resources and STEM projects, the Showman of Showmen competition, Companion Animal and Veterinary Science judging, and Horse Contesting on June 12; culminating with the annual Livestock Auction on June 13.

Sarah McCabe was named the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair Parade Grand Marshal! Sarah is currently the Senior Fairboard Secretary and Director of the Rabbit Barn. She is involved in numerous projects and events for the fair including publications and marketing.

Overall FFA Project Winners:

Best SAE Poster: Darcy Taylor

Best Misc Project: Miguel Martinez

Best Metal Working Project: Nolan Schlatter

Best Carpentry Project: Anabel Martinez

Best Electricity Project: Jacob Harris

Best Masonry Project: Remington Boroff

FFA Project Best of Class:
Carpentry 1: Nathaniel Peters, Wayne Trace FFA

Carpentry 2: Annabel Martinez, Paulding FFA

Advanced Carpentry: Mariah Klopfenstein, Paulding FFA

Shop Project that does not fit in any other category: Miguel Martinez, Paulding FFA

Ag Electrification 1: Salvatore Biliti, Paulding FFA

Adv Ag Electrification 2: Jacob Harris, Paulding FFA

Arc Welding 1: Brayden Kauser, Paulding FFA

Grange Best of Shows:
Photography - Emilee Hadsty

Flowers - Kenley Miller

Artwork - Kenley Miller

Machine Sewing - Preston

Johnson
Needlework - Bonnie Etchison

Antiques - Jordan Hayes
Garden & Crops - Darrel Behrmann

Baked Goods - Kylee Miller

Kids Zone - Ruby Hayes
Crafts - Debra Howell

Canned Goods - Kylee Miller

Demo Derby Winners:

FWD Stock: 1 Preston Aversch; 2 Jason Stanfield Jr;

3 Kylee Roberts

FWD Pro Stock: 1 Clay Bowman; 2 Logan Walker; 3 Caleb Botchlett

Youth Compact: 1 Teagan Wheeler; 2 Bryon Upp; 3 Landon Highly

Minivan/Mini Truck: 1 Jeffery Christian; 2 Logan Warrell; 3 Jason McGurm

Semi Stock: 1 Dustin Joey; 2 Saige Moyer; 3 Gary

(Continued on Page 6)

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FRIDAY, JULY 3, 2026

in observance of
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Deadline for **ADS & NEWS** will be

WEDNESDAY, July 1st

for that next edition of
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MONDAY, July 6th

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Local Advertisers appreciating local news

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Den Herder Funeral Home	2
Den Herder FH – Baughman obit	1
Den Herder FH – Benard obit	2
Den Herder FH – Nickols obit	2
Den Herder FH – Wirick obit	2
Derck's Landscaping	8
Edward Jones Bryan Post	5
Eichers Woodworking	8
Five Star Construction	1
Financial Partners FCU	12
George Forrest Book Signing	6
Gerbbers Electric	6
Hicksville Planning Public Hearing	9
Innovative Assembly HW	11
Klopfenstein Repair	8
Oakwood Comm Church Gospel Fest	7
PCHD HW	11
PC Probate Juvenile 20265007	9
PC Sheriff Sale CI 25 084	9
PC Sheriff Sale CI 25 110	9
PC Veteran's Service	3
PC WMEA	4
PCH Juneteenth 2026	12
PUZZLE – sudoku	9
Ron Burt Ohio Sports Blitz	8
Schmucker Decks	1
T&C Concrete	1
United Edge Farm Equipment Auction	7
Vantage Career Center HW	11

**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 15

• Mark Holtsberry to Speak @
Oakwood Library, 5p

June 16

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

• West Ohio Food Bank Food
Distribution @ PC
Fairgrounds, 12-2p

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

June 18

• Digital Navigation @ Paulding
Co. Senior Center, 9a-3p

• New Partnership Open House
@ Country Inn Enhanced
Living Center, 4-7p

June 19

• Juneteenth remembered

June 20

• Donuts w/ Dad @ Payne
Library, 10a-12p

• Gospel Fest @ Oakwood
Comm. Church, 1-6p

June 24

• WBESC Board meeting @ ESC
Conf Rm, Paulding, 5:30p

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

• GriefShare @ First UMC, Van
Wert, 6-8p

June 26

• Reclaimed Living Annual
Fundraising Dinner @ Branch
Christian Fellowship, 5:30p

Add your event to the calendar
info@westbendnews.net

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OBITUARIES

(Continued from Page 1)

Gene will be lovingly missed by his wife, Mary Ann; sons: Eric (Lisa) Baughman, Monclova, OH; Brad (Lorie) Baughman, Paulding, OH; brothers: Mike (Marie) Baughman, Columbia, SC; Martin (Yvonne) Baughman, Austin, TX; four grandchildren: Alexander, Nicholas, Annaleise, and Addison; many loving nieces and nephews.

Gene was also preceded in death by his sister, Chiri Pettinato and stepmother, Rosie DeLaet Swallow Baughman.

Funeral service will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Thursday, June 18, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Harper officiating. Burial will follow in Latty Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery with military rites accorded by the Paulding VFW Post 587.

Visitation will be held from 2:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home with a Masonic service to be held at 8:00 P.M. There will also be visitation from 9:00 A.M. until time of services on Thursday at the funeral home.

The family requests no flowers or funeral memorabilia, contributions may be made in Gene's memory to the Paulding County Agricultural Society.

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

FORT WAYNE, IN: **Janet Ann Wirick**, 88, of Fort Wayne, IN, formerly of Paulding, OH, passed away on Friday, May 29th, at The Crossings at Covington Commons, Fort Wayne, IN.

She was born on February 26, 1938 in Antwerp, OH to her late parents, Russell and Virginia (Caryer) Coon. On June 15, 1956, she married Gerald Wirick who preceded her in death in 2021.

Janet was a former member of the Paulding United Methodist Church and a current member of Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, IN. She worked for several years at Dana Weatherhead in Antwerp, OH. Janet enjoyed playing cards with her friends on Fridays and was an avid reader and enjoyed sewing.

She is survived by her daughter, Tracey (Jason) Grothaus, Roanoke, IN.

She is also preceded in death by her brothers, Russell and Gene Coon.

Memorial service will be at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at Den Herder Funeral Home, Paulding, OH. Inurnment will follow in Wiltzie Cemetery, Harrison Township, Payne, OH.

There will be calling one hour prior to the services at the funeral home on Saturday.

Memorial contributions may be made in Janet's memory

to a charity of the donor's choice.

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



PAULDING, OH: **Steven E. "Steve" Nickols**, age 57, passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2026 at his mother's home surrounded by his family.

He was born on September 30, 1968 in Paulding, OH to his parents Everett and Joyce (Sentel) Nickols. He worked for Dangler Excavating for several years.

Steve had many interests in life including: his dogs, his chickens, gardening, cooking, tractors, guns, collecting, and going to auctions and swap meets.

He will be lovingly missed by his mother, Joyce Nickols, Paulding, OH; sisters, Deborah McCollum, Paulding, OH; Laura Bird, Defiance, OH; many nieces and nephews.

Steve was preceded in death by his father, Everett in 2020.

Private services will be held at the convenience of the family. Burial will take place in Hedges Cemetery, Jackson Township, Paulding County, OH.



GROVER HILL, OH: **Charles R. "Charlie/Chuck" Benard**, age 65, passed away at his home in Grover Hill, OH surrounded by his family.

Chuck was born in Defiance, OH to his late parents, William H.C. and Fern (Lane) Benard. On May 21, 1988, he married Patricia L. "Trish" (King) Benard who preceded him in death on May 12, 2026.

He worked in maintenance at Haviland Drainage Products for several years. In his earlier years, he worked at Stokley's in Paulding. Chuck had a love for

NASCAR, especially driver Mark Martin, or anyone driving a Ford. He enjoyed collecting knives, watches, and hats. He loved loud rock music, especially Bob Seger or 1980's hair bands and his Budweiser.

Chuck will be lovingly missed by his favorite daughter, Leslie (Stan) Ankney, Ayersville, OH; son, Ted (Cassandra) King, Van Wert, OH; daughter, Amber Bernard, Defiance, OH; special grandsons he helped raised, Preston, Zoah, and Zanden; 5 grandchildren; 6 great grandchildren; sister, Sarah (Bob) Anderson, Montpelier,

OH; brothers, Billy (Mary) Benard, Defiance, OH; Mike (Pat) Benard, Defiance, OH.

He is also preceded in death by his sisters: Linda Vance, Jean Benard, and Phillis Howard.

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

Flowers and tributes may be sent directly to Chuck's daughter, Leslie Ankney, at 29141 Steinmaier Road, Defiance, OH 43512.

Online condolences may be shared at denherderfh.com.

PARKVIEW SURGEON COMPLETES 50th TRANSCAROTID ARTERY REVASCULARIZATION PROCEDURE



PHI cardiac surgeons Dr. Peter Ali & Dr. Adam Cloud recently completed their 50th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) procedure, which helps reduce the risk of stroke. Using an innovative system, surgeons can temporarily reverse blood flow while inserting a catheter in the neck arteries, reducing the risk of complications during the procedure.

Parkview Heart Institute (PHI) surgeon Dr. Peter Ali recently completed the 50th transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR), an innovative, minimally invasive procedure that can help reduce stroke risk for patients with carotid artery disease.

Using the ENROUTE™ Transcatheter Neuroprotection System, surgeons can now temporarily reverse blood flow during stenting to protect the brain from any small bits of plaque that may break off while working inside a narrowed artery. A stent is then placed inside the artery to stabilize the plaque, reducing the risk of a future stroke.

"TCAR has been a game changer for helping patients facing serious risk of stroke from plaque buildup in the arteries in their neck," Ali said. "The innovative TCAR procedure allows us to not only intervene to maintain blood flow to the brain, but also significantly reduces the risk of complications during the procedure if some of that plaque breaks free."

Carotid artery disease is a form of atherosclerosis, or a buildup of plaque, in the two main arteries in the neck that supply oxygen-rich blood to the brain. If left untreated, carotid artery disease can lead to stroke either from reduced blood flow through narrowed vessels or from a blockage in the brain when solid plaque breaks off and clogs smaller

vessels.

Stroke is the No. 4 most common cause of death in the U.S. and a leading cause of long-term disability. Up to one-third of strokes are caused by carotid artery disease.

Prior to TCAR, the main treatment option for severe carotid artery disease was an open surgical procedure which carried multiple risks including bleeding, infection, heart attack and cranial nerve injuries that can cause issues with swallowing, speaking and sensation in the face.

Because the surgery required a large incision in the neck, patients also required post-surgical wound care and were left with a sizable surgical scar. The other option was stenting the carotid artery after accessing the femoral artery in the groin. This required a portion of the procedure to be completed prior to establishing neuroprotection and has an increased risk of stroke.

With TCAR, patients require only a small incision just above the collarbone. Surgeons insert a small tube that filters blood and allows temporary reversal of blood flow away from the brain, so any dislodged plaque is captured and removed. Since the incision is smaller, patients are typically discharged within 24 hours and can return to normal activity within a week.

The ENROUTE Transcatheter Neuroprotection and Stent System being used at Parkview are the first devices designed and FDA-approved specifically for TCAR. More than 100,000 TCAR procedures have been performed nationwide through clinical trials and commercial use.

Dr. Ali is originally from Fort Wayne and attended Homestead High School prior to leaving to complete his education. Dr. Ali returned to

Scripture of the Week

"For the director of music. A psalm of David.

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge."

— Psalm 19:1-2

WITHOUT FAITH, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE



Hebrews 11:6 states, "But without faith, it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

This verse is a powerful reminder of the centrality of faith in the life of a believer. It emphasizes two key aspects: belief in God's existence and confidence in His power and character as a rewarder.

First, I believe faith is essential to true Christian living. It is through faith that individuals enter into a relationship with God. The stronger your faith, the stronger your relationship with God, resulting in more peace in your life. In my service to God, I have experienced many miserable Christians. Operating and speaking on the premise of no faith, I don't think they realized they were miserable and

lacking in the primary essential element needed for a covenant relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Essentially, misery begets misery, not love. The stronger your faith, the stronger your love. They are directly proportionate to one another.

Secondly, the passage highlights the importance of diligently seeking God. This isn't a passive belief; it requires action on our part. Committed action! Diligently seeking God implies a commitment to prayer, studying Scripture, and living in a way that aligns with His will. You are a God Chaser! God promises that those who earnestly seek Him will find Him, which reinforces the idea that our pursuit of Him will lead to spiritual rewards—peace, guidance, and ultimately, a deeper relationship with Him. Seek Him as if you were seeking gold.

In essence, Hebrews 11:6 encourages us to cultivate a faith that not only believes in God's existence but also actively seeks Him. It reassures us that our efforts in pursuing a relationship with God will not go unrewarded. God is eager to reward those who earnestly seek Him. This gives us hope and motivation to continue our spiritual journey, knowing that we are not alone and that our faith will bear fruit. But without faith, it's impossible to please God.

Peace and Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

Indiana when he joined Parkview in August 2025 after completing his doctorate in medicine at Indiana University and completing surgical training with Michigan State University and the University of Tennessee.

Dr. Ali and Dr. Adam Cloud at Parkview are the only cardiovascular surgeons performing TCAR in northeast Indiana. Dr. Ali is also the only surgeon in the region who performs thoracoabdominal branch endoprosthesis procedures to treat complex abdominal and thoracoabdominal aneurysms.

"Dr. Ali is providing life-changing opportunities to his patients via TCAR and is just one example of the many highly specialized surgeons and physicians practicing at the Parkview Heart Institute," said Dr. Roy Robertson, president, PHI. "Parkview continues to explore new technology, new techniques and new procedures to bring cutting-edge heart care to our patients. As the region's only dedicated cardiovascular institute, patients can receive world-class care for everything from high blood pressure to heart failure right here in Fort Wayne."

For more information

about the Parkview Heart Institute, including its more than a dozen specialty clinics, visit www.parkview.com/locations/parkview-heart-institute.



LIFEWISE ACADEMY EXPANDS RAPIDLY ACROSS PAULDING COUNTY, SERVING HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS

LifeWise Academy in Paulding County announced continued growth following a banner 2025-2026 school year marked by strong local demand and expanding participation in Bible-based character education programs.

In Paulding County, LifeWise served 1,317 students during the 2025-2026 school year across all three school districts, reflecting significant growth as more families see the benefits of released time religious instruction.

"Families are clearly looking for ways to support character development and ad-

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address the many challenges that children face today," said Traci Koenig, Program Director for LifeWise Academy Paulding County. "We are seeing tremendous momentum as our community comes together to offer students the opportunity to engage with the Bible during school hours."

Highlights from LifeWise in Paulding County during the 2025-2026 school year include:

- 1,317 students served across 3 school districts
- Wayne Trace Local Schools - 496 students
- Paulding Exempted Village Schools - 600 students
- Antwerp Local Schools - 221 students
- Partnered with 44 supporting churches
- 126 local volunteers dedicated their time to support the students and program operations

New national polling of public-school parents and educators shows overwhelming support for Bible-based character education as a solution to the growing behavioral and mental health challenges facing today's students.

The survey of 1,000 public school parents and 200 public school educators across the country was conducted by Scott Rasmussen's RMG Research.

- Among the poll's findings:
- Nearly 90% favor teaching moral and character education to public school students
 - Nearly 70% say voluntary, off-campus Bible-based character education programs

would be helpful for their child's school

- Over 85% would favor a released time religious instruction program if it were offered

"Families across Paulding County are looking for solutions that help students build strong character, purpose and values," said Traci Koenig. "The overwhelming support reflected in this polling mirrors what we are seeing in our area — parents and educators want students to have access to positive moral and character education opportunities, and LifeWise is helping meet that demand."

About LifeWise Academy: The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1952 that public school students could receive religious instruction during the school day so long as it is off school property, privately funded and parent-permitted. Thirty-one states have laws clarifying the practice of released time for religious instruction.

Since launching in 5 Ohio schools in 2019, LifeWise Academy has grown to more than 1,000 schools across 37 states — and 11,640% increase in participation. To date, LifeWise has served more than 100,000.

LifeWise Academy is a nonprofit that provides Bible education to public school students during school hours under released time religious instruction laws. Hundreds of communities have launched local LifeWise programs through a 10-step process that begins with collecting community signatures at lifewise.org.

to the building's original stained-glass windows and entry doors. Constructed in 1875, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is the oldest church in Hicksville and is recognized as a historic landmark.

JR. FAIR BOARD'S "STOCK THE TRAILER" DRIVE BENEFITS LOCAL PANTRY



On Saturday, June 6, the Paulding County Jr. Fair Board encouraged all 4H kids to "Stock the Trailer" at the Paulding County Fair. In one afternoon they were able to collect 125 pounds of food and personal care items which were presented to Jodi Schneider, Director of the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. The Jr. Fair Board also generously gave a \$200 donation to the Pantry.

WAYNE TRACE JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL 4TH NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

Academic Honor Roll (3.8-4.0) *signifies 4.0

12th grade: *Abigail Evans, Ian Jewell, *Riley Manz, *Caitlyn Mead, Aubree Miller, *Lexi Moore, *Natalie Richie, Deklyn Schweinsberg, Caden Sinn, *Torree Sinn, *Clay Stoller, *Emma Stouffer, Griffin Williamson

11th grade: Anna Manz, *Cole Manz, *Blake Noggle, *Noah Schlatter, *Amber Stoller, *Eli Treece

10th grade: Caylie Baker, *Jensen Beining, *Brinna Collins, *Kendall Denning, Lilly Holbrook, *Xylem Kashner, *Jenna Kipfer, *Addyson LaBounty, *Ashlyn Manz, Cayla Noggle, Madison Pease, *Aukele Schmidt, *Lilly Shepherd, Savannah Sinn, *Brooke Tignor, *Owen Welch

9th grade: *Kendall Folsom, *Addilynn Gerardot, *Easton Jay, *Kinlee Miller, Elliot Parady, Ian Scarberry, Makenna Schilt, Brayden Sinn, *Brooke Stoller, *Corbin Stoller, *Jennifer Treece, *Emma Whitman

Honor Roll (3.0-3.79)

12th grade: Alicia Bahena, Whitney Boroff, Carter Clemens, Kaeden Endicott, Mya Endicott, Izabella Foust, Olivia Franklin, Kamara Halliwill, Ryann Jay, Gauge Landwehr, Stella Laukhuf, Tanner Laukhuf, Hunter Lyons, Lance Maenle, Estrella Martinez Sandoval, Chloe McClure, Raegan McGarvey, Ryan Parker, Jack Schoenauer, Zoey Schultz, Micah Sinn, Amber Stoller, Konnor Wannemacher, Lance Whitman, Samaria Williams, Mylie Witter, Sierra Young

11th grade: Katelynn Bauer, Leah Bland, Ella Crosby, Isabel Gilbert, McKenzie Johnson, Stefany Lopez-Castillo, Johnalynn Shellenbarger, Zachary Stoller, Arianna Viola, Campbell Volk, Monica Williams

10th grade: Anabelle Bidlack, Cheyenne Brimmer, Connor Burriss, Elynn Clemens, Jaxon Cook, Columbia Dempsey, Alyvia Essex, Nicole Gerschütz, Londyn Greear, Jada Gross, Emma Hurd, Faith Jacobs, Isabella

The stained-glass windows, which were shipped from Europe in 1875, are original to the structure and are in need of restoration to help preserve the building for future generations.

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

Theodore P. Swats was born on April 1, 1888, in Virginia. He was the son of Charles Lewis Swats, who was born in April 1863 in Virginia, and Margaret J. (Guin) Swats, who was born on May 1, 1868, in Highland County, Virginia. The couple married on October 21, 1886, in Virginia.

By 1890, the Swats family was living in Virginia, where Charles worked as a blacksmith. They were the parents of Theodore, born in 1888, followed by Gabriel Augustus in 1890. By 1900, the family was still living in Virginia, and Charles continued to work as a blacksmith. The family had grown with the addition of Charles, born in 1893; Arthur, 1895; Cecil, 1897; and Boyd, 1899.

On February 1, 1906, Charles was murdered. He was buried in Green Hill Cemetery in Augusta County, Virginia. The two men responsible for his death were found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to serve five years in the state penitentiary.

On Friday, May 24, 1907, the recruiting station in Staunton, Virginia, accepted Theodore into military service. He enlisted in the United States 6th Light Field Artillery and was sent to Columbus Barracks in Columbus, Ohio.

At the time of his enlistment, Theodore was farming. He was described as being 5 feet 7 inches tall, with blue eyes and black hair. He was later stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, where he met Alice Buchanan of Rosedale, Kansas. They were married on August 11, 1910. Alice was born in 1893, and because she was only seventeen years old, her mother gave consent for the

marriage. Judge Ziegelsch performed the ceremony in the home of her mother.

No further information has been found regarding Alice. Theodore was discharged from the military on February 24, 1911, at Fort Riley, Kansas, under General Orders from the War Department. His discharge record stated that his character and service were excellent.

On March 10, 1915, Theodore's mother died of cancer. She was buried beside Charles in Green Hill Cemetery. Theodore later moved to Camp Taylor, Kentucky, where he re-enlisted in the military on July 27, 1918. He served in Battery C, 4th Regiment Field Artillery, and attained the rank of sergeant. He was discharged on December 20, 1918.

All of Theodore's brothers registered for the draft, although only Boyd and Cecil served in the military.

The years of the 1920s remain vague. It is believed that Theodore and Alice divorced during that time.

By 1930, Theodore was living in Tiffin, Ohio, where he worked as a salesman for an advertising company. He was a lodger at 27 Clinton Avenue.

On May 4, 1931, Theodore married Violet Bernice Fohner. Violet was born on April 12, 1908, in Van Wert, Ohio. She had previously married in Michigan in 1924, but that marriage was unsuccessful.

By 1940, Theodore and Violet had moved to Washington Township, Paulding County, Ohio. Theodore was employed by the government as a laborer at the Trojan Powder Company's Plum Ordnance Works near Sandusky, Ohio.

By 1950, Theodore and Violet were still living in Washington Township while working in the Sandusky area.

On April 3, 1951, Theodore passed away. He was buried in Little Auglaize Cemetery near Melrose, Ohio, in Lot 9, Grave 1. In 1952, he received a military grave marker.

On July 14, 1988, Violet passed away in Spencerville, Ohio. She had worked as a private home nursing care provider. She was laid to rest beside Theodore in Little Auglaize Cemetery.

... Until Next Time!

RESTORATION OF HICKSVILLE'S HISTORIC ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH THROUGH DAF GRANT



Pictured above are (l-r) Tom Battershell - Historical Society Board member, Roger Gatchell - Historical Society Board member, Deb Hensch - DAF Board Member and Grants Committee Member, Eric Crall - Historical Society Treasurer and Stephanie Henderson - Historical Society Board member.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) has awarded a \$5,000 grant to the Hicksville Historical Society during its 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. Funding for the project was provided

through the Capital Projects Fund under the DAF umbrella.

The grant will support restoration efforts at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Hicksville, including repairs

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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YEARS AGO IN PAULDING COUNTY



June 1966: Gov. James Rhodes attended groundbreaking ceremonies for an industrial shell building on Road 144 (Gasser Road) in Paulding. From left are Homer Mentzer, president of Paulding County Community Improvement Corp. of Paulding; A.N. Prentice, vice president and general manager of Ohio Power Co.; C.R. Young, local Ohio Power branch manager; Mayor Ab Rife; Don Parker, county commissioner; Gov. Rhodes; and Rev. Hal Zug.

By: MELINDA KRICK
20 Years Ago

From the Paulding County Progress, June 21, 2006:

The Paulding Pool was busy last week as the high temperatures brought in a record attendance. Water aerobics and swimming lessons also are being offered.

Verl Dasher, who has spent most of his life working with the Boy Scouts, has published a book, The Adventure Patrol. In it, the longtime scoutmaster details many of his backpacking and canoeing outings. Oakwood EMS and Fire Department will hold a groundbreaking for the new fire/EMS station on June 29.

Paulding County Relay for Life exceeded its goal by raising \$50,000 June 2-3 at the fairgrounds. Thirty teams walked around the track to support the American Cancer Society and raise awareness. There were 82 cancer survivors at the opening ceremonies this year, compared to 60 last year.

60 Years Ago

From the Payne Reflector, June 16, 1966:

Two long-time Payne school teachers are retiring. Mrs. Clara Gorrell has taught 47 years. An estimated 2,000 children have passed through her classroom. Her first year of teaching was in Jackson School with all eight grades. Miss Enid Kilpatrick has set a

record of teaching 48-1/2 years at Payne. She taught second grade. She began her career at Logtown, Benton Township for a year, then a year at Happy Corners in Harrison Township.

A group of 40 workers will begin a religious census of all Paulding County residents on June 17.

The free public museum, based on the collection of the late Otto E. Ehrhart, well-known naturalist and photographer, has been completely refurbished for the summer season. The museum is located in the Antwerp City Hall. Installed in two large display cases are murals depicting early scenes in Paulding County. Local artist Norma Jean Hughes has contributed a large painted mural showing scenery along an early mud road.

From the Paulding Progress, June 16, 1966:

Governor James A. Rhodes will be the guest speaker at a groundbreaking ceremony of the industrial shell building at the new 75-acre industrial park on Road 144 [Gasser Road] at Paulding.

Water flowing for the first time Monday in Paulding's new \$1 million water system. The system includes a water reservoir, a fresh water storage tank, pumping station to pump purified water into the distribution system, and a

250,000-gallon water storage tower. The purification system has a daily capacity of 1.5 million gallons.

85 Years Ago

From the Oakwood News, June 19, 1941:

Due to a misshipment of type, the Oakwood News is unavoidably late this week.

The removal of Oakwood's historic iron cage calaboose from the building that had housed it for many years just off Main Street and its consignment to the acetylene blowtorch of Kohart's Auto Wrecking Co. marks the obliteration of some of the somber history of erring sons as well as the memory of some notorious criminals housed there, for safe keeping, until they could be transferred to the county Bastille at Paulding. Chief of the dramatic incidents that featured this grim old cage was the time the building was dynamited, in the dead of night, to prevent the incarceration of a "leading citizen" who had been caught selling liquor on Sunday.

Due to the great response to the free shows sponsored by the merchants of Oakwood, it was decided to have an additional program on Saturday nights beginning June 21. The show last Wednesday was interrupted so that the Joe Louis-Billy Conn fight could be presented over the loudspeaker. After the bout, the picture was finished.

Fire caused by an overflowing water heater fuel tank in the rear room of Bidlack's new barber shop burned it so badly that it will have to be rebuilt.

From the Paulding County Republican, June 19, 1941:

The Shawnee Council Boy Scout camp, on the Auglaize River south of Defiance, was dedicated last Sunday as the council's permanent camp. Eight scouts from Paulding Troop No. 27 attended a three-day camporee: Ralph Holesworth, Alvin Loop, Justice Parrish, Red Kipker, Herbert Haney, Gene Stahl, Robert Davis and Ralph Nicelley.

Fort Brown Park will be hosting three celebrations: Northwest Ohio coon hunters' "Big Coon Chase" on June 22; "Old Fiddlers' Reunion" June 29; and July 4 festivities in-

cluding ball game (Kalida vs. Fort Brown), races (row boat, swimming, obstacle, slow bicycle), greased pole, duck chase and goat rides.

Ray Guerin, proprietor of the Guerin's Electric Shop, and Homer Zimmer, manager of the Grand Theatre, returned from a week's fishing trip in Canada with a catch of 76 trout and wall-eyed pike. The sportsmen "weighed in" at the Community Lockers and a weight slip of 110 pounds of fish supported their report.

Coming soon to the Grand Theatre: Henry Fonda in "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine"; "The Singing Hill" with Gene Autry plus Episode 5 of "Adventures of Capt. Marvel";

"That Night in Rio" with Carmen Miranda; and "The Flame of New Orleans" starring Marlene Dietrich.

110 Years Ago

From the Paulding Democrat, June 22, 1916:

National Guard in Mexican Conflict: An order was issued last Sunday by President Wilson and the war department for the mobilization of practically the entire National Guard of all states for service. Capt. R.C. Leslie, of Company B, Second Regiment, Paulding, received an order by telephone Monday morning to mobilize his company and prepare for orders to move as soon as possible.

There are plans for a peti-

tion for a vote of the people of the county on the subject of issuing and selling bonds for constructing and equipping a county hospital.

Paulding business men have decided Paulding shall have a Fourth of July celebration. One of the star features planned is a mammoth automobile parade, with at least 600 machines in parade. It is also planned to have a motorcycle parade. A ball game is booked between Payne's fast team and the Paulding boys. Fireworks, a high-class band to give concerts on the square day and night, races, a merry-go-round and other special features are being arranged.

DEFIANCE MOOSE LODGE AWARDS GRANTS TO THREE LOCAL LIFEWISE ACADEMIES



Congratulations to three of the local LifeWise Academies, Ayersville, Defiance and Tinora. All three schools received a \$1,000 grant from Defiance Moose Lodge #2094 for Operational Expenses. The Moose Lodge holds a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. Pictured with their checks are (back, l-r) Marily Clay - Moose Lodge Chaplin, Phil Nophsinger - LifeWise Defiance and Ayersville Executive Director, Sarah Wagner - LifeWise Tinora Board Member, Becca Rupp - LifeWise Tinora Board Member, Seth Rogers - LifeWise Defiance and Ayersville Assistant Program Director and Stacy McCartney - Defiance Moose Lodge Administrator; (front, l-r) are LifeWise Tinora students - Hannah Wagner, Naomi Rupp and Eliza Rupp.

2026 ALBRIGHT GEMGLICK SCHOLARSHIPS



Wayne Trace 2026 graduate, Caitlyn Mead, recently earned the 2026 Albright Gemlick Scholarship.

Parkview Sports Medicine (PSM) is thrilled to announce the eight winners among 61 nominees for the 2026 Albright Gemlick Scholarships. Please see the attached news release for scholarship information and winner bios. PSM thanks Parkview Health Foundations for funding the scholarships. We also thank CREW Life founder Rapheal Davis (former South Side & Purdue basketball star) for being our guest speaker at our scholarship banquet and to Brett Rump from 1380 The Fan/100.9FM for being emcee.

2026 Albright Gemlick Scholarship winners are:

Hannah Clark of Concordia Lutheran High School
Wijdan Mohammedain of North Side High School
McKale Bottles of West Noble High School
Laney Musall of North Miami High School
Caitlyn Mead of Wayne Trace High School
Madison Caldwell of Peru High School
Samantha Aselage of Bishop Dwenger High School/

PSM EDGE

Brayden Rice of Northfield High School (Carter Fleck Memorial Scholarship)

OHIO DEPT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ANNOUNCES ENHANCED OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Ohio Department of Behavioral Health (DBH) announced a series of enhanced oversight and accountability measures designed to strengthen program integrity, improve transparency, and ensure taxpayer dollars are supporting high-quality behavioral health services for Ohioans.

As Ohio continues to expand access to mental health and addiction services, DBH is implementing new safeguards to strengthen oversight of providers, grantees, and publicly-funded behavioral health programs across the state.

"The overwhelming majority of Ohio's behavioral health providers and community partners are dedicated professionals who deliver life-saving services every day," said Director Tia Marcel Moretti. "We have a responsibility to ensure public resources are being used appropriately, effectively, and in a manner that maintains the trust of Ohio taxpayers."

An enhanced review process for new behavioral health provider licensure and certification applications;

Reinforced provider renewal requirements, including timely submission of licensure and certification applications to maintain compliance; Increased coordination

with the Ohio Department of Medicaid, managed care organizations, and the Ohio Attorney General to identify and address potential fraud, waste, and abuse;

Enhanced verification and monitoring of service delivery and program performance; and

Implementation of a standardized statewide grantee monitoring and reporting framework for DBH-funded programs and partners.

The new grantee monitoring process establishes consistent reporting requirements, standardized monitoring tools, corrective action procedures, and enhanced documentation practices across Department-funded programs. The framework is intended to improve fiscal and programmatic accountability, support earlier identification of risk, and strengthen the Department's ability to measure outcomes and system impact.

DBH recognizes that Ohio's behavioral health system has grown significantly in recent years in response to increasing demand for mental health and substance use disorder services. As the system grows, oversight and accountability measures must continue to evolve to ensure resources are directed toward legitimate, high-quality providers delivering meaningful outcomes for Ohioans.

Implementation of the Department's standardized monitoring and reporting framework is now underway, with program areas working directly with funded partners, vendors, and providers to communicate expectations and support compliance.

PAULDING COUNTY WMEA RECYCLING

New Schedule For Large Villages

1st Weekend- Paulding , Fair Grounds

2nd Weekend- Grover Hill , VFW

3rd Weekend- Payne ,

(Paved lot east of Homier's)

4th Weekend- Antwerp ,

(13744 CR 43, sewer treatment plant)

New Schedule For Smaller Villages

3rd Wednesday of each month

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

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

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

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

For Questions Call : 419-399-3630

or Visit : www.pauldingcountywmea.com

Editor's Note: We here at the West Bend News allow "Letters to the Editor" because we believe there is a Constitutional right to freedom of speech. Nevertheless, we do not necessarily concur with the content that has been printed. We are just the messengers. However, any letters that attack a person, or attempt to justify a physical attack that took place will not be considered.

Keep your opinion to the discussion only. The name of the person who wrote the letter is placed at the end of each article along with the town of residence.

To be considered for publication, you must live in our readership area. Letters must be no longer than 1000 words, and you must provide your legal name along with a phone number and address. You can submit a letter in person at our office, by email, mail or fax.

Responses need to be received by Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. for the following publication. We reserve all rights to edit as needed.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Warning

You probably know we have our 2026 mid-term election in November. Do you know just how important this election really is? It might make the difference of America remaining a free Christian people or will we turn to communism.

Satan is after America big time. He has been in our midst big time but too many are blind and can't see it. I believe Satan entered the Democrat heart during WWII and called it home.

WWII ended in late 1945. In 1947 Democrats started their war against God when they put us under separation of church and state. After that they made other major moves to remove God and our past history from society and our youth. Democrats want God and everything good eliminated.

One thing you may not know is that until President Trump, most Supreme Court seats were filled by Democrats. Their "golden boy" was Judge Hugo Black. The court was often called the Hugo Black Court. Democrats loved Judge Black because he was anti-God and just plain disliked Christians. He was also a ranking member of the KKK.

If you decide not to vote, you are automatically giving your vote to evil. Remember this - your vote will either be for free Christian America or enslaved Communist America. You only have those two choices. Make a wise choice - life or death.

—Richard Mastin
Hicksville, OH

ACPL EXPANDS SEED LIBRARY PROGRAM TO MEET GROWING COMMUNITY DEMAND

(FORT WAYNE, IN) - As the gardening season begins, the Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is pleased to announce an expansion of its popular Seed Library program to two more ACPL branches, increasing access to free seeds and gardening resources across additional locations.

Originally launched in 2016 at the Little Turtle Branch to encourage residents

LOVES REMAINS



By: James Neuhouser

Lord, I wish I could sing:

"We are born, One fine Day Children of God on our way Mama smiles, and daddy cries They protect us, til' we're of age And through it all, love remains"

In our day, even at a young age we dreamed of getting married and having your own family. It's not that way anymore, but for some of us it came true.

"Boy moves on, he takes a bride She stands faithful, by his side Tears and sweat, they build a home And raise a family of their own They share joy, and they share pain And through it all, Love remains."

Your children grow up, get married and have their own families. You revel in the joy that grandchildren bring. But having a family can also tear your heart out. It can bring so much pain. You see why some married folks decide not to

have children.

"Kingdoms come and go, but they don't last Before you know, the future is the past In spite of what's been lost or what's been gained. We are living proof that Love remains."

Life goes by when you blink your eye. The things that you thought were so important were of no significance at all.

"We all live, and we all die, but the end is not goodbye. The sun comes up, and seasons change. Hope lives on, and love remains."

I love listening to music on my pocket phone. Never knew anything about music, never knew I liked music, except trying to sing in church. I discover hundreds of artists I never knew. Ran across Grammy winner Hillary Scott who is married to another country singer who is also a Grammy winner. This song was sung by their family which includes two grown daughters both Grammy winners.

to grow their own food and support sustainable practices, the ACPL Seed Library has expanded to include the New Haven and Waynedale branches. The program allows individuals to select up to eight seed packets per year at no cost—including those in apartments or without traditional garden space—to grow fresh produce, reduce grocery costs, and engage in sustainable practices.

In the last few months alone, the Little Turtle Branch has already filled more than 400 seed requests from library patrons.

"The growth of the Seed Library in the decade since we launched reflects how much our community values access to fresh, healthy food and opportunities to learn new skills," said Little Turtle Branch Manager Deborah Meserve. "We're seeing people of all experience levels—from first-time gardeners to seasoned growers—using this resource not just to plant seeds, but to build confidence, save

money, and decrease their carbon footprint."

The ACPL Seed Library operates on a simple, community-driven model: patrons take seeds, grow their plants, and are encouraged to save and return seeds to sustain the collection. This cycle helps cultivate plant varieties well-suited to the local climate while reinforcing a culture of sharing and sustainability.

By expanding the program, ACPL continues its mission to enrich the community through lifelong learning and discovery—now extending that impact into gardens, kitchens, and neighborhoods throughout Allen County.

For more information about the Seed Library, including locations and available seeds, visit acpl.info/seed-library.

FIVE QUESTIONS THAT COULD CHANGE HOW YOU SEE RETIREMENT

Saving for retirement is important, but it's only part of the picture. If you're within five to 10 years of your target retirement date, it's time to start thinking about what you actually want your retirement to look like. After all, getting to retirement isn't the end goal — it's what you want to do once you're there that matters.

Start by asking yourself these five questions.

When do you want to retire? The age at which you retire matters more than you may realize. Retiring early sounds appealing, but it means saving more and having less time to do it. It can also create gaps in health care coverage and income before key benefits kick in. For example, Social Security benefits can begin at 62, but at a reduced amount. Full benefits are available between ages 66 and 67, depending on birth year, and waiting until 70 means the maximum benefit. Medicare doesn't start until age 65, and penalty-free withdrawals from retirement accounts generally aren't allowed until age 59½.

For couples, timing gets even more complicated. Staggering retirement dates can sometimes maximize benefits; in other cases, retiring at the same time works better.

A financial advisor can help you sort through these decisions and find the approach that makes the most sense for your situation.

How do you want to spend your time in retirement? Many new retirees are surprised to find that having unlimited free time feels disorienting rather than freeing. Thinking ahead about how to fill the days with meaningful activity — whether that's travel, volunteering, pursuing hobbies or spending more time with family — can make the transition smoother.

It helps to sketch out what a typical week, month or even first year might look like. If there are big gaps, it's worth

thinking now about what might fill them in rewarding ways.

Where do you want to live as a retiree? Some retirees stay put, while others downsize or relocate entirely. Either way, it's wise to consider whether a chosen location will work well as you get older, taking into account factors like proximity to family, access to health care, cost of living and climate.

What will your retirement lifestyle cost? It's not uncommon for retirees to discover that their travel, entertainment or leisure expenses were higher than expected. The more active and involved you plan to be, the more you will likely need to budget.

Does your retirement involve giving back? Retirement often brings both the time and motivation to be more generous. Whether the goal is helping family members, donating to charity or volunteering in the community, it's worth defining those goals and building them into an overall plan.

Now that your vision is taking shape, turn it into a plan. Work with your financial advisor to align your savings with the life you want — and revisit that plan as your priorities evolve so your retirement keeps pace with you.

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

Edward Jones
Member SIPC

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READER PICK-UP LOCATIONS

OHIO LOCATIONS

Antwerp: Antwerp Library, Antwerp Exchange Bank, Antwerp Manor, Dollar General, Family Dollar, G-Mart, Genesis House, H2O Water Store, Pop-N-Brew, Pit-Stop, Small Town Bliss,
Bryan: 4 Seasons, Bryan Hospital, Chief, CVS, Dollar General, Town & Country, Walmart
Cecil: 127 Maramart, Paulding Pancake House
Continental: ACE Hardware, Dollar General, Okuley's Pharmacy
Defiance: Newman's Marathon Carryout, Smoke Stop, Chief, Dollar General (Clinton St), Senior Center, Advanced Auto, Marathon Main Stop, Rite Aid, Defiance Public Library ... Junction Dollar General, Cabbage Patch
Edgerton: USPS, H&W Napa, Kaiser Supermarket, Utilities Dept, Marathon Main Stop, Marathon (East)
Grover Hill: N&N Quick Stop, GH Branch Library, Dollar General
Hicksville: Sailers, Vancress, 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, Vancress 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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Adalyn Miller cleans out the stall for Steak-K-Bob.

(Continued from Page 1)

Geahlen
Pro Stock: 1 Preston Cristt;
2 Scott Drevenok; 3 Chase
Leininge

4-H Clothing Project Awards:

Sew Fun (Beginner) - 1st
Ilah Zimmerman
Sew for Others (Interme-
diate) - 1st Anabelle Saylor
Ready, Set, Sew Active!
(Intermediate) - 1st Brianna
McClure

Loungewear (Intermedi-
ate) - 1st Elliana Burtnett

Shopping Savvy (Interme-
diate) - 1st Emerson Maibach
Beginner Clothing - 1st
Ilah Zimmerman

Intermediate Clothing -
1st Anabelle Saylor; 2nd Bri-
anna McClure

John & Bernadyne Rogers
Memorial Award - Joanna
Zuber

State Fair Qualifiers:

Ilah Zimmerman, Brianna
McClure, Anabelle Saylor, El-
liana Burtnett, Emerson
Maibach

Dog Project Results:

Dog Obedience:
Beginner Novice A - 1st
Emma Wilcox; Pre-Novice -
1st Milej Jacobs; Novice A -
1st Chloe Trausch; Novice B -
1st Brianna McClure, 2nd
Faith Jacobs

Dog Skillathon:
Intermediate - Emma
Wilcox

Dog Rally - Novice A: 1st
Emma Wilcox; Novice B - 1st
Faith Jacobs; Intermediate A -
1st Brianna McClure

Dog Showmanship:
Intermediate A - 1st
Emma Wilcox; Intermediate
B - 1st Brianna McClure; Se-
nior B - 1st Faith Jacobs

Equine Division Results:

Equine Showmanship:
Open Longe Line - 1st
Raeley Franklin - Dakota;
2nd Brynlee Stoller - Bougie;
3rd Luciana Martinez - Ollie;

4th Kenley Miller - Opie; 5th
Brynlee Stoller - Groot

Senior Ground Roping -
1st Gracelyn Elkins - Goose;
2nd Levi Ankney - Daisy

Junior Ground Roping -
1st Hudson Miller - Callie;
2nd Makenzie Muir - Ranger;
3rd Kenley Miller - Opie

Junior Ranch - 1st Sofi
Martinez - My Chocolate
Valentine; 2nd Brynlee Stoller
- Bougie; 3rd Haven Wagner
- Cinco; 4th Henley Wagner -
Tinsley; 5th Kenley Miller -
Opie

Senior Ranch - 1st De-
laney Johanns - Gunner; 2nd
Raeley Franklin - Dakota; 3rd
Raeley Franklin - Whisper;
4th Ben Gurney - Ozzie; 5th
Gabby Gurney - Dexter

Senior Hunter Horse - 1st
Delaney Johanns - Gunner;
2nd Raeley Franklin - Dakota

Pony Western - 1st Janae
Parrett - Sunny; 2nd Logan
Holbrook - Shadow

Junior Western - 1st Hud-
son Miller - Callie; 2nd Bryn-
lee Stoller - Groot; 3rd Ade-
lynn Slattman - Mac; 4th
Makenzie Muir - Ranger; 5th
Nevayah Cler - Thor

Senior Western - 1st Lu-
ciana Martinez - Ollie; 2nd
Karlee Kohart - Rosie; 3rd Sa-
vannah Barnes - Star; 4th
Kendall Kohart - Diva

Equine Skillathon:
Beginner - Brynlee Stoller;
Intermediate - Katelynn
Hurd

Equine Showmanship
Champions:

Champion of Champions -
Raeley Franklin - Dakota
Reserve Champion - De-
laney Johanns - Gunner

Goat Competition Results:
Breeding Boer Doe - 3-6
Months: 1st Janae Parrett

Breeding Boer Doe - 6-9
Months: 1st Janae Parrett

Grand Champion: Janae
Parrett

Reserve Champion: Janae
Parrett

Goat Division Results:

Pet Goat - Grand Cham-
pion: Adelynn Slattman; Re-
serve Champion: Makenzie
Muir

Dairy Market Goat:

Class 1 - 1st Brynlee
Stoller; 2nd Olivia McCrory

Class 2 - 1st Kinley Sun-
day; 2nd Lienna Stoller

Class 3 - 1st Allison Don-
aldson; 2nd Brynlee Stoller

Class 4 - 1st Sophie Don-
aldson; 2nd Allison Donald-
son

Class 5 - 1st Makinzee
Williamson; 2nd Anna Meraz

Dairy Market Goat Cham-
pions - Grand Champion: Al-
lison Donaldson; Reserve
Champion: Sophie Donald-
son; Rate of Gain: Olivia Mc-
Crory

Market Wether Goat:

Class 1 - 1st Easton Stork;
2nd Madison Muir

Class 2 - 1st Reese
Franklin; 2nd Betsie Manz

Class 3 - 1st Janae Parrett;
2nd Mariah Klopfenstein

Class 4 - 1st Myleigh
Sheets; 2nd Dodger Boyd

Class 5 - 1st Aubree Fee-
han; 2nd Raeley Franklin

Market Goat Champions -
Grand Champion: Janae Par-
rett; Reserve Champion:
Myleigh Sheets; Rate of Gain:
Gannon Parrett

Pygmy Goat:

Grand Champion: Karlee
Kohart

Reserve Champion:
Kendall Kohart

Goat Showmanship:

Beginner - Makenzie Muir

Junior - Allison Donald-
son

Senior - Makinzee
Williamson

Champion of Champions -
Makinzee Williamson

Goat Skillathon:

Beginner - Brynlee Stoller

Advanced - Makinzee
Williamson

Poultry Division Results:

Exhibition Poultry:

Standard Breed Chicken -
Grand Champion: Easton
Mapes; Reserve Champion:
Easton Mapes

Bantam Breed Chicken -
Grand Champion: Morgan
Snyder; Reserve Champion:
Mollie Matz

Egg Production Chickens
- Grand Champion: Edison
Manz

Exhibition Duck - Grand
Champion: Wyatt Leather-
man

Overall Exhibition Poultry
- Grand Champion: Wyatt
Leatherman; Reserve Cham-
pion: Edison Manz

Market Chicken Meat Pen
- Grand Champion: Allie
Wilcox; Reserve Champion:
Seth Rosswurm

Market Duck Meat Pen -
Grand Champion: Natalie
Mericle; Reserve Champion:
Lilly Holbrook

Duck Skillathon:

Beginner - Natalie Meri-
cle; Intermediate - Ulrik Zijl-
stra

Market Tom Turkey -
Grand Champion: Avery
Cooper; Reserve Champion:
Axel Goyings

Market Turkey Meat Pen -
Grand Champion: Avery
Cooper; Reserve Champion:
Avery Cooper

Poultry Showmanship:

Beginner - Ashtyn Lanz

Junior Showmanship -
Kaylee Miller

Senior Showmanship -
Damon Rosswurm

Champion of Champions -
Damon Rosswurm

Chicken Skillathon:

Beginner - Edison Manz;

Intermediate - Kaylee Miller;

Advanced - Damon Ross-
wurm

Rabbit Division Results:

4-Class Breeding Rabbit -
Grand Champion: Lydia
Miller-White; Best Opposite:
Lydia Miller-White

6-Class Breeding Rabbit -
Grand Champion: Harley
Troyer; Best Opposite: Owen
Dangler

Overall Breeding Rabbit -
Best of Show: Harley Troyer;
Best Opposite: Lydia Miller-
White

Market Doe:

Class 1 - 1st Adelynn
Slattman; 2nd Adelynn
Slattman

Class 2 - 1st Myleigh
Sheets; 2nd Gavin Parrett

Class 3 - 1st Janae Parrett;
2nd Aubree Feehan

Meat Pen of Rabbits:
Class 1 - 1st Harley Troyer;
2nd Kiersten Thomas

Class 2 - 1st Luciana Mar-
tinez; 2nd Delana Noggle

Grand Champion: Luciana
Martinez

Reserve Champion: Harley
Troyer

Roaster Rabbits
Class 1 - 1st Julia Floss;
2nd Alia Floss

Class 2 - 1st Elizabeth
Cortes-Becerra; 2nd Wyatt
Wilhelm

Class 3 - 1st Piper Pease;
2nd Wyatt Wilhelm

Class 4 - 1st Sophie
Kessler; 2nd Sofi Martinez

Class 5 - 1st Lailah Smith;
2nd Lee Bradford

Class 6 - 1st Carter
Baumle; 2nd Quinton Burns

Class 7 - 1st Brylee
Thompson; 2nd Calla Manz

Class 8 - 1st Wyatt Batt;
2nd Demi Boyd

Class 9 - 1st Emma
Wilcox; 2nd Owen Workman

Class 10 - 1st Sophia
Smith; 2nd Dodger Boyd

Class 11 - 1st Deacon
Boyd; 2nd Hudson Spangler

Grand Champion: Carter
Baumle

Reserve Champion: Quint-
ton Burns

Rabbit Breed Classes:
6-Class Senior Doe -
Harley Troyer

6-Class Junior Doe -
Harley Troyer

6-Class Senior Buck -
Owen Dangler

6-Class Junior Buck -
Harley Troyer

4-Class Senior Doe - Lydia
Miller-White

4-Class Senior Buck - Ly-
dia Miller-White

4 and 6-Class Mixed Breed
- Scott Elder

4 and 6-Class Doe & Litter
- Edwin Miller-White

Rabbit Showmanship:
Beginner - Darcy Taylor

Junior - Alia Floss

Senior - Cole Manz

Champion of Champions -
Cole Manz

Single Fryer Rabbits:
Class 1 - 1st Brynlee
Mangette; 2nd Leon Steele

Class 2 - 1st Luke Lane;
2nd Chase Dobbelaere

Class 3 - 1st Grady
Stairhime; 2nd Brynley Manz

Class 4 - 1st Aubrey Manz;
2nd Jacob Harris

Class 5 - 1st Lute Gross;
2nd Barrett Rau

Class 6 - 1st Quinne Brad-
bury; 2nd Benson Slattman

Grand Champion: Quinne
Bradbury

Reserve Champion: Duke
Dangler

Sheep Division Results:
Beginner Showmanship -
Alayna White

Junior Showmanship -
Wyatt Leatherman

Senior Showmanship -
Anna Meraz

Champion of Champions -
Avery Cooper

Sheep Skillathon:
Beginner - Ilah Zimmer-
man

Intermediate - Ella Zim-

merman

Market Lamb Classes:
Class 1 - 1st Leo Krabill;
2nd Tekota Putnam

Class 2 - 1st Kaylee Stoller;
2nd Wyatt Batt

Class 3 - 1st Alayna White;
2nd Brandon Krabill

Class 4 - 1st Avery
Cooper; 2nd Kaylee Stoller

Class 5 - 1st Alayna White;
2nd Tekota Putnam

Grand Champion Market
Lamb: Kaylee Stoller

Reserve Champion Market
Lamb: Alayna White

Rate of Gain: Alayna
White

Swine Division Results:
Swine Showmanship:
Beginner - Kaylee Combs

Junior - Rachel Webb

Senior - Sophia Antoine

Champion of Champions -
Hannah Griffiths

Swine Skillathon:
Advanced - Zaine
McMichael

Market Swine Classes:
Class 1 - 1st Briggs Stoller;
2nd Joanna Zuber

Class 2 - 1st Anneliese Zi-
jlstra; 2nd Jordan Steel

Class 3 - 1st Kaylee
Combs; 2nd Tucker Stoller

Class 4 - 1st Jordan Steel;
2nd Sylvie Zartman

Class 5 - 1st Garrett Goy-
ings; 2nd Kaylee Combs

Class 6 - 1st Maggie Webb;
2nd Hannah Griffiths

Class 7 - 1st Kalan Burns;
2nd Michael Griffiths

Class 8 - 1st Mara Philipot;
2nd Hannah Griffiths

Class 9 - 1st Ronan
Philipot; 2nd Briggs Stoller

Class 10 - 1st Rachel
Webb; 2nd Maggie Webb

Grand Champion Market
Swine: Mara Philipot

Reserve Champion Market
Swine: Garrett Goyings

Cattle Division Results:
Beef Breeding:

Senior Heifer Calf - 1st
Avery Mosier; 2nd Landyn
Miller

Grand Champion Beef
Breeding: Avery Mosier

Reserve Champion Beef
Breeding: Landyn Miller

Beef Cattle Skillathon:
Beginner - Landyn Miller

Beef Feeder Classes:
Class 1 - 1st Nolan Schlatt-
ter; 2nd Katelyn Plummer

Class 2 - 1st Avery Mosier;
2nd Kyra Adams

Class 3 - 1st Leo Krabill;
2nd Landyn Miller

Class 4 - 1st Avery Mosier;
2nd Alivia Mosier

Grand Champion Beef
Feeder: Avery Mosier

Reserve Champion Beef
Feeder: Avery Mosier

Beef Cattle Showmanship:
Beginner - Parker
Maibach

Junior - Kyra Adams

Senior - Alivia Mosier

Champion of Champions -
Alivia Mosier

Dairy Beef Cross Feeder
Classes:
Class 1 - 1st Jonah Sinn;
2nd Hopeful Rose

Class 2 - 1st Noah Schlatt-
ter; 2nd Caleb McClure

Class 3 - 1st Seth Ross-
wurm; 2nd Damon Ross-
wurm

Class 4 - 1st Joshua Schlatt-
ter; 2nd Boston McGarvey

Grand Champion Dairy
Beef Cross Feeder: Joshua
Schlatter

Reserve Champion Dairy
Beef Cross Feeder: Seth Ross-
wurm

Dairy Beef Cattle Skill-
lathon:
Beginner - Joshua Schlatt-
ter

Intermediate - Olivia
Schlatter

Advanced - Noah Schlatt-
ter

Dairy Beef Cross Cattle
Showmanship:
Beginner - Kollin Reichert

Junior - Boston McGarvey

Senior - Hopeful Rose

Champion of Champions -
Hopeful Rose

Dairy Cattle Showman-
ship:
Champion of Champions -
Anneliese Zijlstra

Dairy Feeder Classes:
Class 1 - 1st Kenley Miller;
2nd Kollin Reichert

Class 2 - 1st Kenley Miller;
2nd Matias Rivera

Class 3 - 1st Kolby Re-
ichert; 2nd Brielle Schlatter

Class 4 - 1st Ross Carter;
2nd Alex Doster

Class 5 - 1st Allison Don-
aldson; 2nd Ross Carter

Class 6 - 1st Elena Schlatt-
ter; 2nd Tori Schlatter

Class 7 - 1st Ryleigh Mc-
Garvey; 2nd Caleb McClure

Grand Champion Dairy
Feeder: Elena Schlatter

Reserve Champion Dairy
Feeder: Tori Schlatter

Market Beef Steer:
Grand Champion Market
Beef Steer: Alivia Mosier

Reserve Champion Market
Beef Steer: Addalyne Halter

Dairy Cattle:
Senior Yearling Heifer -
Anneliese Zijlstra

Grand Champion Dairy
Cattle: Anneliese Zijlstra

Market Dairy Beef Cross
Steer:
Grand Champion Market
Dairy Beef Cross Steer:
Mackenzie Leatherman

Reserve Champion Market
Dairy Beef Cross Steer:
Mackenzie Leatherman

Market Dairy Steer:
Grand Champion Market
Dairy Steer: Mackenzie
Leatherman

Reserve Champion Market
Dairy Steer: Jordan Hale

★

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★

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SCHLATTER CROWNED 2026 PAULDING COUNTY FAIR QUEEN; WORKMAN NAMED FAIR KING



2026 Paulding County Junior Fair Royalty: (front, l-r) Princess - Josie Wiesehan, Prince - Garrett Wilhelm; Junior King - Duke Wiesehan; Junior Queen - Emily McClure; (back, l-r) Myleigh Sheets (1st Runner Up), PC Fair Queen Tori Schlatter; PC Fair King Owen Workman, and Kendall Kohart (2nd Runner Up).

PAULDING - The Paulding County Fairgrounds was filled with excitement Monday evening, June 8, as a new group of Junior Fair royalty was recognized during the annual Paulding County Junior Fair King and Queen contest.

The evening began with recognition of the 2026 Junior Fair Prince and Princess. Emily McClure was introduced as the 2026 Junior Fair Princess. She is the daughter of Brandon and Nikki McClure. Garrett Wilhelm was named the 2026 Junior Fair Prince and is the son of Mike and Danielle Wilhelm.

The 2026 Junior Fair Queen finalists were then introduced to the audience. The contestants included Kendall Kohart, Myleigh Sheets, and Victoria "Tori" Schlatter.

Kendall Kohart, daughter of Andrew and Jessica Kohart, is a freshman at Holgate High School. She is a member of the Black Swamp Junior Farmers 4-H Club and is active in FFA and Junior Fair Board. Kohart plans to attend college and become an agricultural education teacher, saying her involvement in youth organizations has strengthened her passion for both agriculture and teaching.

Myleigh Sheets, daughter of Jason and Mary Sheets, is a

recent graduate of Wayne Trace High School and the Vantage Career Center. A member of the Live Wires 4-H Club, Wayne Trace FFA, and Junior Fair Board, Sheets will attend The Ohio State University to study livestock production and management. She shared that her experiences in youth organizations have helped prepare her with valuable life skills for the future.

Victoria "Tori" Schlatter, daughter of Doug and Katie Schlatter, is a junior at Paulding High School. She is active in Paulding FFA and Junior Fair Board and plans to pursue a college degree in business. Slaughter said her involvement in youth organizations has helped develop public speaking and leadership skills that will benefit her throughout her education and career.

Also introduced was King finalist Owen Workman. Workman is the son of Mike and Jennifer Workman and is a sophomore at Paulding High School. He participates in Paulding FFA, Boy Scout Troop 19, and Junior Fair Board. He plans to pursue a career in automotive technology, sharing that his involvement in youth organizations has fostered his interest in working on engines.

During the interview portion of the competition, contestants answered questions drawn at random. When asked what she had learned through her fair experiences, Slaughter responded that hard work goes a long way and that "whatever you put into it is what you get out of it." Workman shared that the Paulding County Fair is special because of the opportunities it provides to help others and bring people together.

Before the announcement of the results, the 2025 Junior Fair King and Queen reflected on their year of service.

Outgoing King Seth Ross-wurm thanked the community for its support and encouraged the contestants. He spoke about the lessons he learned through 4-H and Junior Fair, including responsibility, leadership, and perseverance.

"One of the biggest lessons that 4-H taught me is responsibility," Ross said. "Through that, I learned that losing can teach you more than winning. The winner gets congratulations, but the loser can find ways to improve and come back stronger next time."

Outgoing Queen Brooklyn Schlatter reflected on the friendships and experiences she gained while representing Paulding County throughout the year.

"Wearing the crown and sash during events in Paulding County is something I will never forget," Schlatter said. "This experience helped me grow in ways I didn't expect. I've become more confident meeting new people and forming meaningful connections."

Schlatter encouraged the newly selected royalty to enjoy every moment of the experience.

"This year will go by faster than you think, so make the most of it," she said. "Build connections and create memories that will last a lifetime."

Following the remarks, the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair royalty court was announced.

Kendall Kohart was named Second Runner-Up Queen, while Myleigh Sheets was selected as First Runner-Up Queen.

Owen Workman was crowned the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair King.

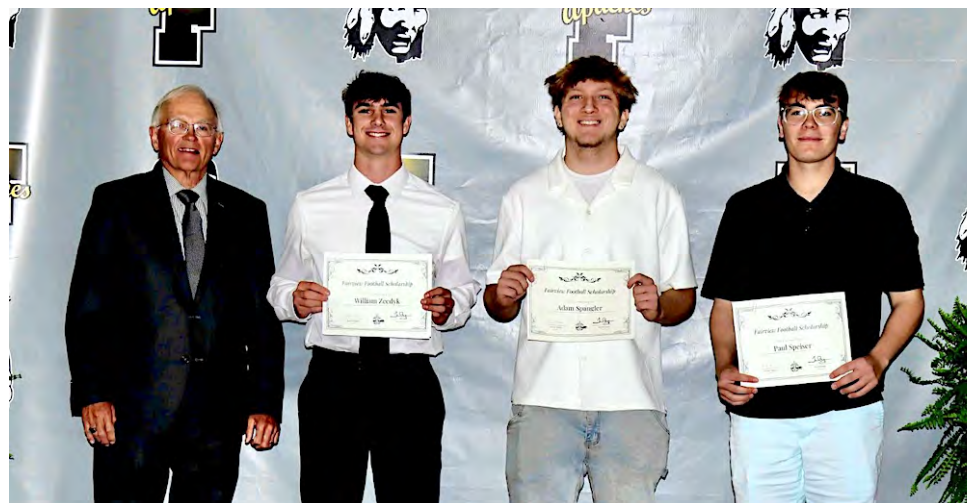
The title of 2026 Paulding

HWC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS FROM FAIRVIEW HIGH SCHOOL



The Health & Wellness Community Foundation of Hicksville is proud to provide scholarships to area youth as they desire to pursue higher education following high school. The HWC Foundation recently presented scholarships to students at Fairview High School. Recipients are selected based on achievements in academics, participation in activities and demonstrating passion for future goals. Shown in the picture are Jessica Keppeler (HWC Foundation) along with Fairview seniors Ruby Elston, Isabel Mavis, Olivia Childress and Kenna Kaufman.

FAIRVIEW SENIORS AWARDED 2026 FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIPS



Congratulations to Central Local Schools, Fairview seniors who received the 2026 Fairview Football Scholarships, held here at the Defiance Area Foundation. Pictured with scholarships are Don Hange - DAF grants committee member with Fairview seniors William Zeedyk, Adam Spangler, and Paul Speiser. All three students were varsity football players at Fairview and have been accepted to college in the fall.

County Junior Fair Queen was awarded to Victoria "Tori" Schlatter.

The newly crowned royalty will spend the coming year representing the Paulding County Junior Fair and serving as ambassadors for the many opportunities available through 4-H, FFA, and other youth organizations throughout the county.

JELLYSTONE PARK TO HONOR VETERANS WITH FREE HELICOPTER RIDES

Yogi Bear Campground in Jellystone Park Piercetown, IN Announces "Huey for Our Heroes" FREE Helicopter Rides for Veterans.

On June 27th Jellystone Park in Piercetown, IN will host "Huey For Our Heroes" promotion Flying with Veterans and Patriots to honor all Veterans who have served this great country. They are looking to raise \$25,000 so that 100 veterans can take a FREE helicopter ride in a Huey Helicopter! The event will start at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday the 27th at the park. Veterans can sign up the day of the event with the Huey Organization for their ride.

Jellystone Park is located at 1916 N. 850 E. Piercetown, IN.

1st 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



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THE LEFT TURN



Bobby Pierce wins the 32nd Eldora Dream Photo credit Campbell Photography.

By: Ron Burt

The 32nd Annual Eldora Dream Week didn't disappoint the Super Late Model fans last week at the Big E. With all the rain we had leading up to the annual event, Tony Stewart and his ground crew had the track in good racing conditions. Eighty two drivers and race teams made the haul hoping to have one or more of the weeks big paydays.

FloRacing Night in America kicked off Eldora Dream Week, Wednesday, June 3rd. Max Blair set fast time 15.495, and he won the first of 6 heat races. After winning a couple of big races the week before, including last Saturdays \$100,057.00 win at Mansfield Speedway, all eyes were on Nick Hoffman. He still had momentum in his favor and pulled out a hard fought victory and \$20,000.00 first place prize money. Finishing behind the leader 2nd Devin Moran, 3rd Dale McDowell, 4th Brandon Sheppard and 5th Chris Ferguson.

Thursday, June 4th was Dream Night 1 with Dan Ebert taking the fastest lap in qualifying 14.964. Unfortunately, he was only able to pull out at 15th place finish in the feature. Your winner Bobby Pierce won the feature after starting inside on row 4. On the podium with the winner was Tyler Erb 2nd and Hudson O'Neal 3rd.

Friday, June 5th Dirt Late Model Dream Night 2 Eldora Speedway Dale McDowell set fast time with 15.036. He started the feature inside row 2 but just couldn't advance. The winner Jonathan Davenport had a solid night winning the 2nd heat race, started the feature in 6th and was able to work through traffic and get the win. Behind Davenport was 2nd Brandon Overton, and 3rd Dale McDowell.

On Saturday, June 6th the weather didn't look favorable for the 100 lap Dream. The sky

opened and a lake developed in the infield. Once the down-pour stopped, the pumps, drainage system and ground crew went to work and by hot lap time, the track came around and was race ready for the 32nd Annual Dirt Late Model Dream. Bobby Pierce had the best run of the 4 nights of racing, starting The Dream in 13th, fighting his way through lots of traffic, leaders and lapped cars to park his car in Vicory Lane for big \$100,000.00 payday. Behind the winner Max Blair, Nick Hoffman, Dale McDowell and Devin Moran. A lucky race fan also won big. The take-home share of the 50/50 was \$42,686.00.

Other racing results in the area Friday and Saturday:

Friday, June 5th Attica Raceway Park Attica Ohio ran a regular show with 3 car classes. Your feature top finishers were, 410 Winged Sprints 1st Cap Henry, 2nd Trey Jacobs, and 3rd Gauge Garcia. 305 Winged Sprints 1st Jamie Miller, 2nd Dustin Dinan, and 3rd Bryan Sebetto. UMP Super Dirt Late Models 1st Kyle Moore, 2nd Rusty Schlenk, and 3rd Gregg Haskell.

Friday, June 5th Limaland Motorsports Park Lima Ohio featured the Great Lakes Super Sprints, along with the UMP Modifieds and Thunder Stocks. Great Lake Super Sprints 1st Nate Dussel, 2nd Van Gurly Jr. and 3rd Max Stambaugh. UMP Modifieds 1st Drew Charlson, 2nd Dalton Lane, and 3rd Jeff Koz. Thunder Stocks 1st Aiden Hervey, 2nd Jordon Conover, and 3rd Tony Anderson.

Saturday, June 6th, Oakshade Raceway OH featured 3 Race Classes Sportsmen/Modified Challenge, Dominator Stocks and Sport Compacts.

Sportsmen vs Modified Feature, 1st Mike Jessen, 2nd Dylan Jessen, and 3rd Josh

Robertson. Dominator Super Stocks Top 3, 1st Jake Rendel, 2nd Jeff Foks Jr., and 3rd Jerrett Rendel. Sport Compact Feature, 1st James Stamper, 2nd Ken Wells, and 3rd Ryan Okuley.

Next week I will cover Ohio Sprint week which is currently going on for the 410 Winged Outlaw Sprints and the Annual Indiana Midget Week, featuring the National drivers in USAC. Until next week, keep your wheels down. Ron Out!

VANTAGE/WAYNE TRACE 4th NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL 2025-26

AB Honor Roll:

*Denotes a 4.0 GPA

12th grade: *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

11th grade: Addisyn Bradtmueller, Dakota Densmore, *Alex Doster, *Elizabeth Graham, Ben Gurney, Miley Jacobs, Colton Kimmel, Reece Olwin, *Grayson Sutton, Olivia Zartman

NORTHWEST STATE ANNOUNCES 2026 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Archbold, Ohio – Four individuals have been selected to receive the Northwest State Community College Distinguished Alumni Award for 2026. Those individuals were officially recognized during a special luncheon ceremony prior to Spring Commencement on Saturday, May 9, 2026 at the Archbold Campus. Plaques with their likeness will also be added to the prestigious Alumni wall of award recipients, located outside the Voinovich Auditorium in the College's E building.

"The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes excellence beyond Northwest State – education, professional achievement, service to the community and more," said Robbin Wilcox, NSCC Executive Director of Development and the NSCC Foundation. "We are proud to recognize these four graduates with this prestigious award. We congratulate them for their achievements, and for being tremendous representatives of Northwest State Community College," Wilcox continued.

ABOUT THE RECIPIENTS

Douglas Bernath is a 1979 NSCC graduate who earned his Associates of Applied Business Degree in Marketing/Management. He continued his education at University of Toledo earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business Services/Business in 1981.

Michael Kemerer is a 2001 NSCC graduate who earned her Associates of Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice. He furthered his education at Bowling Green State University to earn his Bachelors of Science Degree in Criminal Justice in 2003. Michael continued on to the University of Toledo, College of Law to earn a Juris Doctor degree in 2006.

Grayden McCashen is a 2012 NSCC graduate who earned an Associate of Arts Degree as summa cum laude. He then went on to accom-

plish a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Biblical Studies as summa cum laude from Moody Bible Institute in 2015, and a Master's of Philosophy Degree in Theology from University of Oxford in 2018. Grayden continued on to earn his Doctor of Philosophy degree in Historical Studies in Theology and Religion from Emory University in 2024.

Kevin Whitlock is a 1996 NSCC graduate who earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. He furthered his education and received a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Business Administration from Defiance College in 2002. Kevin continued on to the University of Toledo, College of Law to earn a Juris Doctor degree in 2007.

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

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.

Amanda E. Morehead, Payne, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. She was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Conrad J. Zook, Kenton, pleaded guilty to an over-height vehicle violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Benjamin A. Haverfield, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Antonia M. Rahe, San Antonio, Texas, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Randi L. Drew, Cloverdale, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

Siedah S. Brown, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Jesus Bautista Cruz, Payne, charge of driving under suspension for violating license restrictions against was dismissed. He pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Hannah M. Young, Toledo, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Wallace C. Daniels Jr., Cecil, pleaded guilty to a traffic control device violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Amy L. Keith, Antwerp, domestic violence dismissed with prejudice at the request of the state. Court costs were waived.

Damian L. Delgado, Continental, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. He was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Daniel C. Phinney, Spencerville, pleaded guilty to a child restraint violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Edward C. Pitre II, Sulphur, Louisiana, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER AND OTTOVILLE GRADUATE WINS NATIONAL SKILLSUSA CHAMPIONSHIP



Cruse Schroeder with Vantage Construction Equipment Technology Instructors, Chris Miles and Deb Richardson

Van Wert, Ohio — Vantage Career Center is proud to announce that Construction Equipment Technology student Cruse Schroeder of Ottoville has earned the title of National Champion in Heavy Equipment Operation at the 2026 SkillsUSA National Leadership & Skills Conference, held this June in Atlanta, Georgia.

SkillsUSA is one of the nation's largest workforce development organizations, serving career and technical education students and hosting national competitions that showcase industry-recognized skills and leadership development. The annual SkillsUSA Championships bring together the top competitors from every state to determine national champions in a wide range of career fields.

Schroeder competed against state champions from across the United States and

captured the gold medal in one of the most demanding skilled trades competitions offered through SkillsUSA. The competition evaluates students on real-world heavy equipment operation skills, including safety procedures, precision equipment handling, technical knowledge, and jobsite problem-solving.

This national championship reflects Cruse Schroeder's hard work, dedication, and commitment to his craft, as well as the strong instruction and support he received through Vantage Career Center's Construction Equipment Technology program. Vantage proudly congratulates Cruse on this outstanding achievement and recognizes instructors Deb Richardson and Chris Miles for their dedication to helping students develop the skills needed for success in the workforce.

\$95 in court costs.

Pedro Machuca, Columbus, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Megan M. Weldon, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Christopher L. McCann, Fort Wayne, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a marked lanes violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Trenton A. Meeks, Defiance, pleaded guilty to disobeying the order or signal of a police officer. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$280 in court costs. Meeks was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended. Condi-

tions included maintaining general good behavior and writing a letter of apology.

Lester E. Sulfridge, Paulding, pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle while under an OVI suspension. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Sulfridge was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 177 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from June 8, 2026, through September 8, 2026. The court ordered that he be taken into custody immediately.

Joseph F. Gilliland, Dupont, pleaded guilty to driving while texting and to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$150 on the texting charge and \$30 on the seat belt violation. Court costs of \$95 were assessed.

Gary D. Sentel, Cecil,

The Left Turn

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Tim & Victor Klopfenstein 19718 Notestine Road
657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

EARLY LEARNERS MAKE A BIG IMPACT WITH FOOD PANTRY DONATION



Children and staff from Little Sprouts Early Learning Center in Paulding recently collected and donated 36 pounds of breakfast items for the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. Their donations will benefit many families in our community.

pleaded guilty to failure to re-instate his driver's license. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$97 in court costs.

Trenton A. Meeks, Defiance, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. He was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. A stop sign charge against Meeks was dismissed.

Joseph C. Nicelley, Paulding, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Pierre D. Mitchell, Detroit, Michigan, pleaded guilty to a child restraint violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Coryn K. Bennett, Paulding, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. Bennett was ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Kari L. Morhart, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a registration violation. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Darrell W. Webb, Angola,

Indiana, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Chase Gomez, Worthington, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Kayden Winslow, Antwerp, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Eric R. Wott, Celina, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Jace T. Crossland, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a traffic control device violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Frank E. Smith, Thorn Hill, Tennessee, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Uday S. Shamoon, Sterling Heights, Michigan, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Michael D. Leist, Carey, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Rachel J. Vollmar, Napoleon, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Serena D. Thompson, Indianapolis, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

PAULDING COUNTY GRAND JURY INDICTMENTS

Paulding County Prosecuting Attorney Matthew Miller announced that the Paulding County Grand Jury indicted (6) persons on Thursday, June 11, 2026.

Bobby Joe Thompson, Antwerp, OH – Failure to Provide Notice of Change of Address (F3).

Coltin Wroblewski, Antwerp, OH – Rape (F1); Illegal Use of Minor or Impaired Person in Nudity-Oriented Material or Performance (F2).

Lester E. Sulfridge Jr., Paulding, OH – Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (F2); Ag-

gravated Trafficking in Drugs (F3).

Timothy Michael Lotzer, Cecil, OH – Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (F4); Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (F3, two counts); Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (F1); Aggravated Trafficking in Drugs (F2).

Kirk Edward Boesling, Defiance, OH – Aggravated Possession of Drugs (F5).

Heather Marie Main, New Haven, IN – Complicity in the Commission of an Offense (F2).



ANTWERP POLICE REPORTS

On May 26 a resident of Canal St. reported juveniles riding scooters on the street. An officer located one juvenile, age 12, riding a scooter and informed the juvenile that scooters could not be operated on the roadway.

On May 27 two golf cart inspections were requested.

On May 27 the Antwerp Police Department investigated the theft of one of the village nuisance signs. Photographs of the vehicle and suspect were obtained, and the case remains under investigation.

On May 30 the Hicksville Police Department contacted the Antwerp Police Department requesting information regarding a possible sex offender.

On May 30 a resident of Woodcox St. contacted the police department regarding a tree that had fallen into the roadway. An officer responded, contacted utility personnel and the homeowner, and remained on scene until the tree was removed.

On May 30 the police department received a request for a vehicle unlock.

On June 2 the police department received a call from the Paulding County Sheriff's Office regarding a 911 hang-up call. An officer responded to the location and determined the call had been accidental.

On June 3 a resident of Washington St. reported that two vehicles had run the stop sign at the intersection of Washington and Madison streets. The caller described the drivers as teenage boys, one operating a gold-colored vehicle, and believed both vehicles had been speeding.

On June 3 a resident contacted the police department regarding an alleged violation of a protection order. A report was prepared and forwarded to the prosecutor.

On June 4 a suspicious vehicle was reported in the Family Dollar parking lot. An officer responded, located the vehicle, and determined that nothing suspicious was taking place.

On June 4 a resident contacted the police department and requested that a report be completed regarding a custody issue.

On June 4 a village resident contacted the police department to file a harassment

The West Bend News

Sudoku Puzzle

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

Answers to "Sudoku puzzle on Page 11"

complaint.

On June 4 Dollar General contacted the police department regarding a man sleeping in his vehicle in the parking lot. An officer spoke with the individual, who stated that he had pulled off the highway to rest because he was tired.

On June 5 a counselor contacted the police department requesting a welfare check on one of their clients. An officer responded to the residence, spoke with the individual, and determined everything was okay.

(Continued on Page 11)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS, OHIO
-Probate / Juvenile Division-

Case No. 20265007

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION
OF:

B. I. S.

To: John Doe

You are hereby notified that on the 29th day of May 2026, a Petition for the adoption of B.I.S., who was born on the 16th day of May, 2016, in Van Wert, Ohio, was filed in the Court of Common Pleas, Probate Division, Paulding, County, Ohio and that the hearing on said petition will be had before the Judge of said Court on the 7th day of July, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

All parental rights, duties and responsibilities of John Doe will be

terminated and relinquished and the said adoptive parent will have full and complete

custody and control over said child if the Petition for Adoption is granted.

Any objection to the adoption must be filed with the Court of Common Pleas of Paulding, Ohio, Probate Division, within fourteen (14) days of the date of the last publication of this Notice.

FILED
JUN 08 2026
PROBATE COURT
PAULDING COUNTY, OHIO
Judge: Harvey D. Hyman
Dorothy A. Taylor, Jr. (0000527)
Attorney for Petitioner
Weiner, Hill & Weber, Ltd.
401 Wayne Avenue
Defiance, Ohio 43512

ON-LINE SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Ohio Revised Code, Section 2329.153

The State Bank & Trust Company, Plaintiff,

vs.

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

Case No. CI 25 084

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

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

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

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

The first sale date will be on the July 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

<https://paulding.sheriffsauction.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 23, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for any costs, allowances, and taxes which the proceeds of the sale are insufficient to cover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING HICKSVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Hicksville Planning Commission will hold a public hearing for a lot split on Hicks St, on the 29th day of June 2026 at 6pm at City Hall in Council Chambers.

The application submitted by Bruce Guilford Real Estate & Auctioneering on the behalf of Nikki, Louis Beresgsazi for the Residence at 129 Hicks St. They are requesting a lot split for the property at 129 Hicks St.

— Zoning Official
Village of Hicksville
Brian Demland

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

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.sheriffsauction.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

Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

RISE NORTHWEST OHIO RECEIVES \$1,000 GRANT FOR NONPROFIT TRAINING INITIATIVE



Pictured are (L to R) Aileen Meyer - Pilot Program Director for Rise Northwest Ohio, Chelsie Schroeder - DAF Marketing Director and Laurie McCann - DAF grants committee member.

Rise Northwest Ohio received a \$1,000 grant from the Hanna Family Memorial Fund under the Defiance Area Foundation umbrella during the Foundation's 2026 Spring Grant Cycle.

The grant will support the launch of the Five & Ris-

ing Training, an online learning platform designed to help nonprofit organizations across Northwest Ohio build stronger, more sustainable operations. Funding from the Defiance Area Foundation will help cover the first three years of licens-

ing fees for the program's learning management system, allowing nonprofit leaders to access affordable training and educational resources without the barrier of travel costs or expensive registration fees.

CERTIFIED NURSE MIDWIFE DEDICATED TO PROVIDING WOMEN WITH NURTURING CARE



Cortnee Shinew, CNM, Parkview Physicians Group - OB/GYN

Women's diverse health needs require specialized care and sensitivity. Parkview Physicians Group (PPG) - OB/GYN has assembled a team of certified nurse midwives who bring that compassionate care to northwest Ohio and northern Indiana communities.

Cortnee Shinew, CNM, who recently joined PPG -

OB/GYN in Bryan, is one of those dedicated health professionals specially trained to guide women in taking care of their well-being through multiple life stages. She joins Lindsay Roose, CNM, who has already been serving women across the area.

Collaborating with OB/GYN physicians, nurse midwives like Shinew and Roose are qualified to diagnose medical conditions, prescribe medications and treatments and order tests. They provide a wide range of healthcare services to girls and women, including general health checkups, screenings and vaccinations; pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care; and well-woman gynecologic care addressing issues from adolescence through menopause to the elder years.

Most of all, Shinew, Roose and other Parkview nurse midwives emphasize getting to know patients as individuals, offering support without judgment, and cultivating relationships for the long term.

"Our skilled nurse midwives meet women where they

are on their health journey, reassure and guide them, and support their goals for childbirth or general well-being," said Dr. Andrea Hoover, executive physician leader and Quality and Safety director, Women's service line, Parkview Health.

Bringing new life into the world is a major focus, and Shinew and Roose work with a team of OB/GYNs, including Dr. Hanan Bazzi and Dr. Robert Arrom, to meet the needs of expectant mothers delivering their babies at Parkview Bryan Hospital. Midwifery care complements OB/GYNs' expertise in high-risk pregnancy, medical complications and surgery.

As nurse midwives, Shinew and Roose are experienced in supporting moms emotionally and with important birthing resources, including ways to cope with labor pain. A variety of interventions - from position changes and relaxation techniques to water therapy - is available to make moms more comfortable during delivery. If further measures are needed, IV, epidural

and other medications can be administered. The goal is to enable each woman to have her desired approach to birth.

"Since I was in elementary school, I have always wanted to deliver babies," said Shinew. "Being able to help women through all stages of life, with both obstetric and gynecologic care, is such a rewarding and special honor."

Shinew received her Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She completed her bachelor's degree (BSN) at Mercy College of Ohio, Toledo. Certified through the American Midwifery Certification Board, she holds membership in the American College of Nurse Midwives.

Prior to joining Parkview, Shinew was a nurse midwife for a Toledo health system, where she cared for pre-term labor and high-risk pregnancy patients in addition to providing gynecologic care for women of all ages.

She describes her approach as patient-centered: "I provide evidence-based care, educate patients on treatment options and give recommendations, but all decisions are made collaboratively with my patients. I always practice trauma-informed care, and I offer a holistic approach to obstetric care. Patients can always expect a listening ear and a safe, trusting environment with me."

Outside of work, Shinew enjoys traveling and spending time with her family, as well as catching up on her current favorite shows and must-read books. As mom to a tween girl and two young boys, she also stays busy supporting their cheerleading and soccer activities.

The PPG - OB/GYN office is located at 433 W. High St. in Bryan and can be reached at 419-633-0755.

UNEARTH A STORY: ACPL'S SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM GOES PREHISTORIC

The Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is excited to announce the return of its annual Summer Learning Program, running June 1 through July 31. Designed to keep learners of all ages engaged and inspired throughout the summer, this free program invites the community to dig

STRAHLEY SPEAKS TO THE KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club of Paulding was pleased to welcome Scott Strahley this week, invited by Kiwanis member Stan Searing. Scott began his presentation by expressing a heartfelt thank you to the Kiwanis organization and its members for their ongoing dedication to the community. "Service-based organizations are vital," Scott noted, acknowledging the time and effort it takes to make meaningful projects and events happen.

Following his remarks, Scott shared details about the upcoming 250 America Celebration, a special event in Paulding honoring this significant milestone. The celebration will feature a variety of activities designed for all ages,

including:

- Kid-friendly events and a bicycle decorating contest
- Local artisans and craft shows
- Live music and performances by local bands
- Fireworks displays
- Opportunities to connect with neighbors, friends, and local business owners

This celebration is a wonderful chance for the community to come together and enjoy a festive atmosphere.

About Kiwanis Club of Paulding: The Kiwanis Club of Paulding is dedicated to serving the children and families of the community through volunteerism, charitable events, and community engagement.

into reading, discovery, and hands-on exploration.

This year's theme, "Unearth a Story," brings a prehistoric twist to summer learning, encouraging participants to explore the world of dinosaurs, fossils, and natural history through books, activities, and interactive experiences. As part of the program, ACPL will host the traveling exhibit "Dinosaurs: Fossils Exposed," offering visitors a chance to get up close with fascinating specimens and learn more about life millions of years ago.

Participants can track their reading and activities using the Beanstack app or by picking up a printed tracking sheet at any ACPL location. The program includes challenges and activities for children, teens, and adults, with opportunities to earn free books and prizes throughout the summer. Preregistration is currently available at acpl.info/summer.

"Our Summer Learning Program is all about sparking curiosity and making learning fun," said Jacki Fulwood, Youth Services Manager at ACPL. "We know that without opportunities to stay engaged, students can lose ground over the summer—research shows many students lose up to two months of learning, and some even more in key subjects like math and reading. But the good news is that high-quality summer programs like ours help kids maintain and even build those skills, while also boosting confidence, creativity, and a lifelong love of reading."

The ACPL Summer Learning Program rewards participants who track their reading and activities with free books and prizes at 15-, 30-, and 45-day milestones. Participants are encouraged to engage with many different types of learn-

ing over the summer including:

Library Programs: Hundreds of events will take place across ACPL locations, including dinosaur-themed crafts, STEM programs, and interactive learning experiences for all ages.

Outreach Pop-Ups: Library staff will participate in community events, festivals, and resource fairs to connect with new and existing patrons.

Community Exploration: Participants are encouraged to continue their learning beyond the Library by exploring local attractions such as the Fort Wayne Zoo, Botanical Conservatory, the History Center, and Science Central. These visits complement the Summer Learning Program by connecting reading with real-world discovery and hands-on experiences.

Summer Youth Meal Programs: In partnership with Fort Wayne Community Schools and Blessings in a Backpack, ACPL will distribute free meals to youth at select library locations. Any child under 18 is eligible to participate.

Team Read: Teen mentors meet weekly with youth enrolled in community childcare programs and local parks to inspire a love of reading through games, shared stories, and free books to take home.

All Summer Learning Program activities are free and open to the public. For more information or to preregister in May, visit acpl.info/summer or stop by any ACPL location.

The 2026 program is made possible through the generous support of Foellinger Foundation, the Friends of the Allen County Public Library, and the Allen County Public Library Foundation.

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DRESS UP YOUR WINDOWS
with perforated VINYL DECALS at West Bend Printing!

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Pictured are Don Hange - DAF Grants Committee Member, and Renee Hopper - Defiance Public Library Reference and Technical Service Manager.

The Defiance Area Foundation is proud to support the Defiance Public Library System through an \$800 grant awarded during the 2026 Spring Grant Cycle. This funding will help bring members of the Black Swamp InterTribal Foundation to Defiance for a unique educational and cultural experience that will help community members better un-

derstand what life in Defiance County was like more than 250 years ago. Grant funds will assist with honorarium and lodging expenses for participating members. Opportunities like this help preserve and share the rich history of our region while creating meaningful learning experiences for our community.



THE KEEPER OF WORDS

Dotting My Teas By: Marlene Oxender

After I wrote "The Grandparent Leagues," my grandson Deano and I talked about some of the funny thoughts I'd included. It was a story about senior citizens and what it would be like if they played softball. Deano and I tried to come up with a sport grandparents could play, and when soccer was mentioned, he said, "If grandparents played soccer, they'd be out of breath running up and down the field. They'd all want to be the goal-keeper because you just stand there. But sometimes you gotta dive, and that could be a problem." Deano knows his grandmother is a keeper of words - especially his. He watched as I wrote his thoughts in a booklet I carry in my purse. Children have a way of telling it like it is, and their words can take us back to a familiar place. A place where we were strong. A place where climbing a tree was as simple as trusting our legs to lift us to the next branch. And balance

- how could that ever be a problem? If a young person falls, there can be laughter. When a grandparent falls, it's followed by a time-out until it's determined they're okay. Or not okay. Years ago, I was with my mother as she sat down in a gliding rocking chair. I saw the chair start to tip, and although I was right beside it, I couldn't grab the handle fast enough. The chair fell, taking Mom with it. So there I was, standing in the living room looking down at my 85-year-old mother, still in the chair, which was on its side on the floor. She needed help. I needed help. The phone rang. Mom told me not to tell anyone she was on the floor. It was my sister-in-law Karrie calling to say the roads were icy. She was home safe and sound, though her van had done a slip-slide. Her nephew had come to the rescue, so all was well. Mom was sitting on the floor listening to our conversation - a conversation that was not to include the fact that she was on the floor. After I hung up the phone, my mother decided she'd have to get herself up. I watched as she crawled to the couch and got to her knees before coming to a standing position. She said she wasn't hurt except for the bump on her head. She still didn't want to give up her idea of not telling anyone. I left for an appointment in Fort Wayne but stopped back on my way home to check on

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

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

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

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

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THE HEALING HEARTH by Angel: Salves, Soaps, Beard Oils, Essential Oil Rollers, Luffas. Text 419-258-0656 for more info.

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

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

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

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

her. By then, both of us could see the humor in the story, and we laughed. Mom said she must have been quite a sight to see. I told her a couple of pens had flown out of her hands. And some papers were scattered on the floor. Her insistence on not discussing the fall was one of the story's comical parts. She just needed time before deciding it would be best to let the family know. So I wrote an email to my siblings, and in the morning, Mom shared her side: And before I could get up, Marlene said, "That will make a good falling story - Grandma off her rocker." If it wasn't for her, I would not have tried to set on the rocker. She wanted a telephone number, and I came from the davenport to write it down on a piece of paper under the light. I don't believe I even got set down, mostly on the left side, and it tipped over. She was right there but it happened so quickly she couldn't catch me. I cracked my head on the corner of the secretary, and the arm of the chair bruised my right side. The phone rang while I was still down, and it was Karrie telling Marlene about the snow on the roads. I had said right away, "Don't tell anybody." So she listened to Karrie and never said a word. I finally got turned onto my knees and able to make it up. I told Darrell because I thought he wondered why I didn't pick up Steve. I have a bump on my head, but it doesn't hurt unless I touch it. Could have been worse. When Carolyn called, I was laughing and I turned the phone over to Marlene. When she came in the evening - she started laughing and going over the whole episode. Verna is picking me up and I am going with her to Hicksville Hospital for a program. Have a good day. Love and God bless. Mom

Somewhere along the way, grandparents become the keepers of words that make a story worth remembering.

On June 8 a resident came to the police department regarding a check that had been written to an unknown individual. The resident stated they did not remember issuing the check. On June 9 a company contacted the police department seeking assistance in locating one of its employees who was traveling and had reportedly stopped at the local Dollar General. An officer checked the area and determined the employee was not there, but was later able to locate the individual and notify the company. If you would like to report any suspicious activity or if you have any questions, please contact the Antwerp Police Department, 419-258-2627. They are always ready to serve the residents of the Village of Antwerp!

RHODES STATE COLLEGE ANNOUNCES SPRING 2026 GRADUATES

Rhodes State College proudly recognizes the students who graduated during the Spring 2026 semester. These graduates demonstrated dedication, perseverance, and academic achievement while preparing for careers that will positively impact their communities and industries throughout the region and beyond. The following local students graduated from Rhodes State College during Spring 2026: Brenna Joann Case, Grover Hill, Nursing Avery Nicole Noffsinger, Continental, with Honors, Mechanical Engineering Technology Macy Ann Collier, Continental, with Honors, Dental Hygiene Taylor Diana Michel, Continental, Nursing Lauren O Williams, Continental, Dental Hygiene Jayden Scott Bergman, Defiance, Radiographic Imaging Deacon Jude Laney, Defiance, Radiographic Imaging Shalane Marie Pagan, Defiance, LPN to ADN Transition Stephanie Lynne Taylor, Defiance, Nursing

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

Sudoku solution from page 9

Emily Rebecca Woodbury, Defiance, with Honors, RN to BSN Transition Tytus Benjamin Manz, Paulding, Electro-Mechanical Systems Technology Coli Rose Talbott, Paulding, LPN to ADN Transition Kaitlin Ann Slade, Payne, with Honors, Occupational Therapy Assistant Deven A Detwiler, Van Wert, Electro-Mechanical Systems Technology Harlie Jade Mays, Van Wert, Radiographic Imaging Saylor Mae Wise, Van Wert, Nursing Grace Elizabeth Mayes, Van Wert, with Honors, Business Administration Jade Ellen Osenbaugh, Van Wert, Nursing Emma Claire Spoor, Van Wert, with Honors, Digital Media Courtney Nicole Stripe, Van Wert, LPN to ADN Transition Zoey Elaine Tracy, Van Wert, Radiographic Imaging Rhodes State College offers associate degrees, certificates, workforce development training, and transfer opportunities designed to prepare students for in-demand careers and continued education.

As sure as it's going to rain, the classifieds sell.

HELP WANTED

VANTAGE CAREER CENTER Anticipated Vantage Career Center Position Posting

Dates of Posting: Wed., June 10, 2026 – Wed., June 24, 2026
Position: HS Sports Exercise Therapy Instructor
Start Date: August 2026
Application Deadline: Wed., June 24, 2026

Job Objectives: Plans, implements, and evaluates instruction in the High School Sports Exercise Therapy program. Coordinates work-based learning experiences for students within the communities Vantage serves. The Sports Exercise Therapy programs gives students hands-on experience in fitness, athletic training, sports medicine, exercise science, and rehabilitation.

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

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PAULDING COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HELP WANTED

Paulding County Health Department is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of the Fiscal Officer/Registrar. Candidate must possess a High School Diploma. Associates' or Bachelor's Degree in finance or accounting is preferred and a minimum of three (3) years' experience working with accounting. Candidate must possess and maintain a valid driver's license with an acceptable driving record, proof of auto liability insurance coverage, and access to a vehicle. This position is full time - 40 hours per week. Bi-lingual is preferred but not required. Salary is commensurate with experience and qualifications. For more information, please visit www.pauldingcountyhealth.com or contact the Paulding County Health Department.

Please send resume and cover letter to: Brandi Schrader, Deputy Health Commissioner, 800 E. Perry St., Paulding, OH 45879 or email to brandis@pcohhd.com by July 15, 2026.

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BIG BOY 4014 ROLLS THROUGH HISTORY IN NORTHWEST OHIO



Big Boy Steam Engine from New Haven to Continental near state line - Photo by Neil Koch Dig-Drive-DIY Youtube channel.

By Ed Bohn

Few machines in American history captured the imagination as the steam locomotive. The massive size, the moving parts, all powered by steam. The last of its kind and the largest ever built, came through northeastern Indiana and northwest Ohio, as part of the coast-to-coast celebration of the United States 250th birthday, Saturday June 6th.

The Union Pacific Railroad recommissioned one of eight "Big Boy" steam locomotive engines, that still existed, back to fully operational, after a number of years of bringing a museum piece back to life. In 2019, Engine 4014 after being restored and repowered to a more efficient means of producing the steam needed to power such a massive locomotive, was converted from being fueled by coal in its original construction in 1941, to No. 5 fuel oil.

The restoration took two years to complete and Union Pacific put it back on its rail line, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Transcontinental railroad expansion out west.

The Union Pacific Railroad decided to do its part in celebrating the 250th years of the United States, by putting together this special train, and having the only fully functional "Big Boy" steam locomotive engine, travel from the Pacific coast to the Atlantic coast, and back to its home in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Residents in northeastern Indiana and northwest Ohio, got a glimpse of the largest steam powered locomotive in the world, on Saturday, June 6th, as it made its way from Ft. Wayne, Indiana, where it was serviced overnight to Bellevue, Ohio, where it once again received service. Along the way, people in the small towns of Edgerton, Indiana,

Payne, Latty, Broughton, Melrose, Oakwood and a brief stop in Continental, Ohio, all took part in history in the making.

This 1.2-million-pound, 133-foot mechanized, marvel piece of machinery, that is able to produce over 6,000 horsepower, for the first time has crossed the Mississippi River and traveled into the eastern part of the United States. Today the Big Boy Engine 4014, remains a symbol of American engineering achievement and industrial determination. The concept of the journey is simple, but an ambitious one, departing from the Pacific coast on April 10th of this year, steaming eastward, across deserts, mountains, the plains, passing through small towns and big cities, before reaching the Atlantic coast. This railroad excursion is a rolling piece of American history. Union Pacific ordered 25 of these

mammoth steam locomotives, to transport freight over the Wasatch Mountain Range, transporting military equipment to the shipping ports of the Pacific Ocean, during World War II and through the economic boom years of the Fifties.

The journey has been a demonstration of cooperation among the major railroad companies to travel from coast to coast, on the different railroads. Norfolk Southern Railroad Company owns the section of tracks that the Big Boy locomotive traveled from Ft. Wayne across the state of Ohio. People lined the tracks along the way, gathered at railroad crossings, in the country as well as in towns and cities along the way. Well over a thousand people, from grandparents, moms & dads, along with their children and grandchildren, all took part in the gathering, in Continental, Ohio. The train stopped for around a half hour for people of all ages to get a look at the mammoth piece of industrial history and the other rail cars of its era, including President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personal rail car used during his presidency, that was at the end of the train.

Once the train makes its way to the Atlantic coast, it will take part in this country's Semiquincentennial in Scranton, Pennsylvania, it heads back across the United States. If you missed it last weekend, you will get a chance to see it once again, in northwest

Ohio. It will make a stop in Fostoria, Ohio on Tuesday, July 14th, scheduled from 9:00am to 3:00pm, then after getting serviced overnight, Big Boy 4014 will take off the next morning making its way once again for a stop in Continental, Ohio, on Wednesday, July 15th, from 11:30am to noon,

For more information about the "Big Boy" Engine 4014, go online to the Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014 website or get on YouTube and type in Union Pacific Big Boy and watch the number of videos capturing the restoration of the enormous steam locomotive and its journey across this great United States.

WINNERS OF ANTWERP VFW POST 5087 AUXILIARY RAFFLE

Antwerp VFW Post 5087 Auxiliary recently held their raffle. The following people won prizes:

1st - Pam Slattery, Hicksville: \$300 Chop Shop gift card

2nd - Cindy Rahrig, Antwerp: \$200 Pit Stop Marathon card

3rd - Kristin O'Shaughnessy, Hicksville: \$100 H&W gift card

50/50 - Gina Sensabaugh, Cecil

PERI DIST 1 CHAPTER 30 MEETING DATE SET

Defiance County PERI District 1 Chapter 30 is meeting on Wednesday, June 17 at 1:00 p.m. Delaware Township Firehall Rt 18 east of Sherwood. Speakers will be John Hancock, Second ward councilman and Vickie Myers, Defiance County Treasurer. Both are running for Defiance County Auditor. All former retirees are urged to come. All are welcome and all members are encouraged to attend.

BAD BOYS TOYS CAR SHOW RETURNS JULY 18

ANTWERP - Car enthusiasts and community supporters alike will have an opportunity to enjoy a day of classic vehicles and family-friendly entertainment when the Bad Boys Toys Car Show returns on Saturday, July 18, 2026.

Hosted by Antwerp Boy

Scout Troop 143, the event will take place at 105 Railroad Street in Antwerp. Registration begins at 2:00 p.m.

The show will feature a variety of classic and custom cars, along with live music, trophies and plaques, and a 50/50 raffle. Organizers encourage both participants and spectators to attend and enjoy the festivities.

Proceeds from the event will benefit Troop 143, helping Scouts attend the National Jamboree and offset adventure camp expenses.

Additional information and event updates can be found on Facebook by searching for Bad Boys Toys Car Show.

OHIO STATE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATES FATAL CRASH

Paulding - The Van Wert Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a fatal crash that occurred on June 5, 2026, at approximately 2:12 PM. The crash occurred at the intersection of State Route 637 and County Road 138 in Jackson Township, Paulding County.

Sara Woolbright, age 20, of Continental Ohio, was driving a 2002 Volkswagen Beetle westbound on County Road 138 and stopped at the intersection with State Route 637.

Brian Robinson, age 40, of Defiance Ohio, was driving a 2025 Ford F-750 northbound on State Route 637. Ms. Woolbright failed to yield from a posted stop sign and pulled into the path of Mr. Robinson. After colliding the two vehicles ran off the west side of State Route 637 and struck a guard rail. Ms. Woolbright was pronounced deceased on scene. Mr. Robinson and his passenger Ronald Sanholtz, age 64, of Liberty Center Ohio, were not injured.

The Patrol was assisted on scene by the Paulding County Sheriff's Office, Paulding Fire and EMS, and Gideons Towing and Recovery. The crash remains under investigation, and no charges have been filed. Drugs and alcohol are not suspected to be a factor in the crash.

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ATTENTION

In observance of the federal holiday, Juneteenth, all Paulding County Hospital Outpatient Clinic locations will be **CLOSED on Friday, June 19th.**

Paulding County Hospital services including: Outpatient Registration, Laboratory, Imaging and Therapy will be closed.

PCH Emergency Department will remain open.



1035 W. Wayne Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879