

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL PROVIDES UPDATE ON FITNESS CENTER & REHABILITATION EXPANSION PROJECT



Construction crews continue work on Paulding County Hospital's Fitness Center and Rehabilitation Expansion Project. The addition will provide expanded rehabilitation services, a dedicated therapy gym, updated fitness facilities, a walking track, and additional space to better serve the growing healthcare needs of the community.

Construction continues to make steady progress on the Paulding County Hospital Fitness Center and Rehabilitation Expansion Project, with hospital officials sharing an update on the work that has taken place since groundbreaking ceremonies were held in November 2025.

The expansion was launched to address growing patient demand and provide additional space for rehabilitation services. Over the past several years, Paulding County Hospital has experi-

enced a substantial increase in patient volume as healthcare services across the region have evolved, creating a need for larger and more specialized treatment areas.

Recent construction photos show the new addition taking shape on the east side of the hospital. Exterior work includes the installation of brickwork, framing and weatherproofing, while inside, crews have completed much of the structural framing and utility work for the new rehabilitation and fitness spaces.

When complete, the project will provide a dedicated therapy gym designed to support Physical, Occupational, Speech and Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation services. The expansion will also allow the hospital to better utilize existing space within the facility and reduce congestion that previously required some therapy-related activities to be conducted in tempo-

(Continued on Page 2)



LOCAL WWII VETERAN & FORMER JUDGE PUBLISHES FIRST NOVEL, TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN

After years of sitting quietly on a shelf, *Top of the Mountain* has finally found its way into readers' hands.

The debut western novel by Antwerp resident George Forrest will be celebrated during a special book signing from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, at the Antwerp Branch Library, 205 N. Madison St., Antwerp.

Forrest, 98, is no stranger to storytelling. A former judge and attorney, accomplished artist, published poet, and one of the last surviving World War II veterans in Paulding County, he has spent a lifetime collecting experiences worth sharing. While he has published poetry for many years, *Top of the Mountain* marks his first venture into fiction.

The novel follows rancher Andy Steele through the rugged wilderness of the American frontier, where cattle rustlers, hidden mountain passes, and difficult moral choices test both courage and character. Along the way, readers encounter unforgettable companions, unlikely friendships, frontier justice, and a story that is as much about loyalty and perseverance as it is about adventure.

Adding another unique element to the book are the custom pencil illustrations created specifically for this edition, bringing key scenes and characters to life throughout the story.

Published locally through West Bend Printing & Publishing, *Top of the Mountain* represents more than the release of a new book. It is the fulfillment of a dream decades in the making and an opportunity for the community to celebrate one of its own.

Copies of the book will be available during the event. Community members are encouraged to stop by, meet George Forrest, hear the story behind the novel, and help honor a local author whose first work of fiction proves that it is never too late to share the stories waiting to be told.

ODOT NORTHWEST OHIO DISTRICT 1 WEEKLY TRAFFIC IMPACTS WEEK OF JUNE 22, 2026

Defiance County:

U.S. 24 lane restrictions – U.S. 24 on the west side of the city of Defiance will be restricted to one lane; the right

ANTWERP'S FRONT PORCH FUEL PREVIEWS SAMPLES



New Antwerp business, Front Porch Fuel located at 114 S Main St., Antwerp, held a soft opening on Thursday, June 18th for neighboring business owners. They were invited to check out the offerings of the new business.

The owner, Stephanie Kordy, is excited to introduce her food to the public at her Grand Opening Saturday morning, June 20, 2026. Her store front offers healthy, pro-

tein packed foods that are excellent to help you get in shape. She also performs consulting for health and shows her journey through weight loss.

The food she offered during the soft opening was excellent and we look forward to her dinners. Hours at Front Porch Fuel are 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

lane and shoulder is closed for a slope stabilization project in two locations:

- U.S. 24 westbound at Krouse Road
- U.S. 24 eastbound at Baltimore Street

Estimated Completion: October 2026
State Route 15/Ralston Avenue closure, Defiance – State Route 15 (Ralston Avenue) between Latchaw Drive and Anthony Wayne Boulevard in the city of Defiance will close Monday, July 20, for a project to construct a dual roundabout. Estimated Completion: November 1, 2026

- Detour: U.S. 24 to Clinton Street to Session Street, back to Ralston
- Local detour: Fallen Timbers Drive to Wemore Avenue (connection to be constructed with this project)

• Hospital access: Access will be available on both sides of the project:
– From southeast: Ralston Ave. to Session St. to Clinton

St. to High St to Latchaw Dr.
– From northwest: A tem-

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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 23

- AI in the Workplace @ Vantage, 12-1p

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

June 26

- Ice Cream Social @ Grover Hill Lions Comm. Bldg., 4-7p
- Paulding Chamber Golf Outing, Auglaize GC

June 27

- Car & Truck Show @ Central Insurance, VW, 10a
- The Band Perry @ VW Peony Fest, 7:30p

June 28

- Art in the Park @ Fort Grounds, Defiance, 10a-4p

July 1

- Grief Support Group @ Christ Continental UMC, 6:30p
- GriefShare @ First UMC, Van Wert, 6-8p

July 4

- 250th Celebration @ Reuben J Smith American Legion Post 297, Payne, 2p

July 8

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



Add your event to the calendar
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(Continued from Page 1)

rary areas.

A key feature of the project is a separate entrance for fitness center members. The design will allow individuals using the fitness center to access the facility more conveniently, particularly during evening hours, without entering through the main hospital. Therapy patients will continue to enter through the hospital's main entrance. The new addition will also include updated exercise equipment areas, patient amenities and a walking track.

Hospital leadership has

noted that the project represents an investment in the future of local healthcare and is intended to ensure residents continue to have access to high-quality rehabilitation and wellness services close to home.

Construction remains ongoing as crews continue work on both the exterior and interior portions of the expansion. Hospital officials say the project will provide additional capacity and modernized space to help meet the healthcare and wellness needs of Paulding County residents for years to come.

DAF AWARDS GRANT TO HELP FUND 2026 DEFIANCE JAZZ FESTIVAL



Pictured with the grant are (L to R) Ginny Sterling and Sarah Marshall - Jazz Festival Co-Founders, and Chris Yoder -DAF Executive Director.

Congratulations to DDVB, Jazz Festival Committee for receiving a \$500 grant during the Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) spring grant cycle. This grant will be used for stage and sound crew at the upcoming 2026 Jazz Festival.

This year the Jazz Festival will be held on Saturday, July 11 at 3:30 pm at Kingsbury Park. To learn more about the Jazz Fest, please visit <https://visitdefianceohio.com/defiance-jazz-festival/>

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SHULTZ HUBER & ASSOCIATES, INC. ANNOUNCES PROMOTION



Lindsay Wyse

Shultz Huber & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce that Lindsay Wyse was recently promoted to client advisory services manager. Wyse oversees the client advisory services team, which operates in the Firm's five offices throughout northwest Ohio. She has been with the Firm since 2012 and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from The Ohio State University.

Wyse has been instrumental in adding the client advisory services line at SH&A. In her new role as manager, she is responsible for organizing and managing client assignments and projects, as well as coaching and directing team members.

The client advisory service line allows Shultz Huber to provide customized support that goes beyond year-end tax returns and financial statements. Clients who choose this service are assigned a team member who works alongside the client's in-house team, identifying ways to maximize profits and streamline accounting processes.

Shultz Huber & Associates, Inc. is a full-service accounting, tax and business consulting CPA firm specializing in assisting businesses and their owners plan for their future and achieve their goals in an ever-changing financial and regulatory environment. Offices are located in Archbold, Bryan, Defiance, St. Marys and Van Wert, Ohio.

At Shultz Huber & Associates, we're more than just an accounting firm. We're a team of accounting experts with specialists in a wide range of industries. Client success is what drives us, and we believe that our proactive, detailed approach leads to success. For more information on how our team can assist you, visit shultzhuber.com.

USA FARM PROJECTIONS

Jim Wiesemeyer (wiesemeyer@gmail.com), Washington DC agricultural insider, Virginia, spoke recently about US agriculture. Email him for free daily insights. Jim offered insights on E-15, Aviation fuel, and projections for the US Farm Bill.

Jim is optimistic that Congress will pass a US ag farm provision for year-round E-15 Ethanol. While some Congress members are opposed, the majority want this legislation passed. The effect on corn markets may be slow though because it takes time to build new facilities for increased ethanol production.

The aviation fuel (45Z) seems to be stalled. It is set to expire soon (2029) but no rules have been made. This would be a boon for USA agriculture if 45Z was a reality. It will stay stalled until a new farm bill is enacted. The 45Z Clean Fuel

Production Credit provides a tax incentive for producing low-emission fuels including Sustainable Aviation fuel made from grain.

Jim also reported on the USDA crop estimates. Currently the way USDA collects the info seems to be outdated. The USDA crop estimates have been criticized because they are so slow, out dated, and not all that accurate. USDA is looking for comments and solutions. If there are no US farm reports, there is no crop base. On the other hand, markets are very efficient at collecting this information. Market traders use drones and instant data to update crop progress while USDA still uses crop surveys and does not use drones. Free market access to that data is an issue.

Jim also discussed the current farm economy. John Deere farm equipment sales are down 15-20% along with Cargill, ADM, Bunge (soybean oil), and Louis Dreyfus. Caterpillar equipment sales are way up, mostly for industrial equipment sales. Fertilizer prices are soaring due to the Iran war and shipping restrictions.

The next FARM Bill has moved on in the House but its prospects are questionable. In order to get a new US FARM bill, that requires consensus and a majority. According to Wiesemeyer, the current prospects of Republicans winning the senate stands at 67% while Democrats prospects of winning the House are 77%. That leads to a lot of infighting and little legislative action. It is still early yet, but US agriculture needs a new Farm bill!

Trump is pushing for Trade goals to protect farm markets but he still wants to generate more money with tariff taxes. That usually leads to foreign governments slapping retaliatory tariffs on agricultural goods. What Brazil is doing is what the USA needs to do! Strengthen domestic consumption of US agricultural products. For grains that includes ethanol, 45Z Aviation fuel, increased USA livestock production, industrial uses for ag products, etc.

Jim discussed Brazil, who is becoming our nemesis in grain and livestock production. Brazil is #1 now in Soybean and Cotton production and #3 in corn production. In a few years, according to projections they will pass us in corn and they recently passed us in Cattle production (2025) to become #1. They are also major producers of poultry and hogs. They also lead in coffee, sugar cane, and orange juice. Brazil is a low-cost producer and is increasing its domestic consumption of ag products.

Weisemeyer also offered some insights on Trump himself and on his cabinet in relation to US agriculture. First, Trump is very impulsive, a cunning leader, and decisive. He is pushing tax cuts, deregulation, and is against fraud, crime, and illegal immigration. Wiesemeyer expects AI and robots to greatly help with Ag labor issues in the future. Trump has a very loyal cabinet. Trump is all about America First and helping the General public. Trump will be pushing affordability, lowering inflation, lowering interest rates, and lowering taxes before the mid-term elections. That may include lowering food prices.

Trump is also pushing MAHA (Make America Healthy Again) along with Robert Kennedy. That could

Scripture of the Week

"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"

— Ephesians 5:25-26

PERSEVERANCE

In a Christian context, per-



severance refers to the steadfastness and determination to continue in faith and obedience to God, despite challenges, trials, and tribulations. It encompasses maintaining hope and trust in God's promises, enduring hardships, and remaining faithful in one's spiritual journey. Persever-

ance is often seen as a virtue that strengthens character and faith.

James 1:2-5 (NIV)

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance."

James 1:12 (NIV): "Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

God will never leave you nor forsake you. He will give you the strength to endure any challenging situation that you may face. I guarantee it. Learn to trust in him today by placing it in his hands and leaving it there. What have you got to lose? Smile! Jesus Loves and So do I!

Peace & Love,

—Pastor Dwayne

have a big effect on GMO products, ultra processed products, and pesticides but that effect is still unknown. Should be watched carefully. It could affect soybeans because soybeans are highly processed more than any other farm commodity.

Lee Zeldin (USEPA) originally did not like ethanol but Trump has got him supporting ethanol. Brook Rollin (US Secretary for Agriculture) has close ties to Trump. She was #2 to be his Chief of Staff. She is a lot like Trump. Probably needs to spend more time with actual farmers but is a solid, well articulate person to lead the Department of Agriculture according to Wiesemeyer. Wiesemeyer expects \$15-17 billion dollars in more US farm aid but says Congress is getting farm income fatigue, so it is not a guarantee. All of the above are Wiesemeyer insights.

James J. Hoorman
Hoorman Soil Health Services

SPRING HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED FOR HUNTERS WITH DISABILITIES ON OHIO'S STATE FORESTS

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Division of Forestry held two special turkey hunts for hunters with disabilities this spring. The annual hunts took place earlier this month in Pike and Blue Rock state forests.

"These hunts are something we look forward to each year," said Dan Balser, chief of the ODNR Division of Forestry. "They highlight the value of our state forests as places where conservation, habitat management, and outdoor traditions come together. The hunters and volunteers who

participate make the event truly special, and we are grateful for their involvement."

The 8th annual Thunder in the Hills Wild Turkey Hunt was held at Pike State Forest. Fourteen hunters participated in the weekend hunt and four turkeys were harvested. The second turkey hunt was the 19th Annual Wheelin' Sportsmen Hunt at Blue Rock State Forest and was sponsored by the NWTF Wheelin' Sportsmen program. Twenty-five hunters participated, and five turkeys were taken during the event.

For both events, the Division of Forestry worked with a variety of partners including the Clinton County Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), the Y-Bridge Longbeards, along with ODNR's Division of Wildlife and Division of Parks and Watercraft. Local businesses provided donations and dozens of volunteers staffed both of the hunts.

Both events were held in early April. Hunters provided their own shotguns and ammunition, as well as the necessary licenses and permits. Guides were provided for each hunter.

The Ohio Division of Forestry promotes the wise use and sustainable management of Ohio's public and private woodlands. To learn more about Ohio's woodlands, visit forestry.ohiodnr.gov (<https://forestry.ohiodnr.gov/>). Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/odnrforestry>) and on Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/odnrforestry>) @odnrforestry.

ODNR ensures a balance between wise use and protection of our natural resources for the benefit of all. Visit the ODNR website at ohiodnr.gov (<https://www.ohiodnr.gov/>).



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A BAD HABIT OR A ROUTINE?

Penny For Your Thoughts
By: Nancy Whitaker

We all have routines we do and most of them make us feel good. A routine is not a bad habit if it doesn't bother anyone and if it benefits you.

One of my routines is a cup of coffee the first thing in the morning. I just cannot focus if I don't drink coffee. Just one cup to get started.

Another thing that I personally do that I have always done is brush my teeth and tap the tooth brush 3 times on the sink before putting it away. Why? I don't know I just have always done it and I guess it's just a habit. Brush brush brush and tap tap tap.

Some people have different habits when they eat. Someone told me that they don't let any food on their plate touch each other and they eat one thing at a time. This is their way of eating and I may have to try it.

Now my grandpa used two utensils to eat. He had a fork in one hand and a spoon in the other. For some reason he would pick up food with the fork and put it in the spoon to eat. If it was soup he would eat with 2 spoons.

One of my habits (maybe bad) is that I sneeze so loud I scare people even the cat. Plus when I sneeze I do it maybe 5 times in a row. One time I sneezed so loud it scared my little grandson and he cried.

I guess a real lady should put her hanky over her nose and do a little aaaacchooooo. Why do I sneeze loud? I don't know why but if I didn't sneeze loud, I would feel like I never sneezed. Just one of my habits I do.

Some sports people do a certain routine before a big game or competition. Some wear a certain pair of socks, Michael Phelps the famous gold medalist swimmer did this:

Before diving into the pool, he would swing his arms violently to slap his back, then put on his headphones and listen exclusively to "Boom Boom Pow" by The Black Eyed Peas to lock into his zone.

Then there is Michael Jor-

dan: Basketball legend Michael Jordan was known for wearing his University of North Carolina shorts under his Chicago Bulls uniform in every game. He continued this ritual throughout his entire NBA career, believing it brought him good luck and success on the court. (Wonder if he washed them)

Former MLB slugger Jason Giambi had an unusual "golden" ritual. When he was in a hitting slump, he would wear a gold lamé thong to break out of it. Though it may have been a humorous attempt to break bad luck, it be-



came a legendary story in baseball lore.

One Hall of Fame baseball player ate chicken before every game, while another sportsman had a routine of eating a sub sandwich

The iconic pre-game ritual that was the LeBron James chalk clap. It was a routine that formed a special connection between him and his fans. He captured the attention of the entire stadium, as they waited quietly for the iconic moment when he grabs the powder, rubs his hands together, and tosses the chalk in the air - and when he did the crowd would erupt - he's pumped, the fans are pumped and it's game time!

So we know that picking our noses or biting our fingernails isn't really kosher, but some still do it.

People like routines because they are used to doing things a certain way and maybe brings good luck.

Not all routines or habits are bad, it's just who we are and how we think.

Do you have a routine or habit you do? Drinking a lot of coffee? Wearing certain socks? Eating something for good luck? And I have a habit right here: "Let me know and I'll Give you a Penny For Your Thoughts."

YOUNG STARS TAKE STAGE IN VWCT'S DEAR EDWINA JR.

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is excited to announce



the cast and creative team for its upcoming Youth Theatre production, Dear Edwina Jr., a heartwarming and hilarious musical that celebrates friendship, confidence, and the importance of being yourself.

Dear Edwina Jr. follows the story of Edwina Spoonapple, an advice-giving extraordinaire who dreams of becoming the next great advice columnist. Through a series of lively songs, colorful characters, and entertaining production numbers, Edwina and her neighborhood friends tackle everyday problems ranging from table manners to making friends. Filled with humor, charm, and valuable life lessons, this delightful musical is sure to entertain audiences of all ages.

Leading the production team is Director Emily Gehle, joined by Assistant Director Alyssa Taylor, Music Director Grace Doctor, and Rehearsal Assistant Abbie Mengerink. Together, they have been working with a talented group of young performers to bring this energetic and inspiring musical to the VWCT stage.

The talented cast includes:

- Edwina Spoonapple — Sophia Rupert
- Kelli Poshkonozovich — Madalynn Laukhuf
- Becky Del Vecchio — Grace Spieles
- Scott Kunkle — Xadriana Groves
- Annie — Lily Schnipke
- Bobby Newsome — J.D. Giesige
- Cordell Vanderploock — Deagann Schlemmer
- Billy Vanderploock — Levi Schlemmer
- Lars Vanderploock / Mary Sue Betty Bob — Emily Foudy
- Katie Spoonapple / Frank's Ma — Lainey Custis
- Ann Van Buren / Sonoma — Normajean Stickney
- Susie — Annabelle Harvey
- Johnny — Ryker DeVelvis
- Queen of Boolah Boolah / Chef Ludmilla — Evvy Lamb
- Frank — Jon Caldwell
- Fairy Forkmother — Ella Lamb
- William — Karalina Sterrett
- Harry — Grayson Baker
- Lola — Vivian Laukhuf
- Farmer Jerry — Colby Tyas
- Aphrodite — Colossus
- Athena Swenson — Linley Young
- Abigail Mathilda Fleckenheimer — Natalie Caldwell
- Periwinkle Hurgun Burgen Yurgensson — Brooklyn Beining
- Carrie — Layla Norton

The ensemble includes Lettie Baker, Braxton Beining, Josie Dettrow, Adeline English, Holly Feasel, Aleah Font, Russell Giesige, Ellie Hamman, Lillian Laukhuf, Nayela Leggitt, Amelia Schlagen, Anna Stoller, Phillip Tyas, Shepherd Young, and Woodward Young.

Performances of Dear Edwina Jr. will take place on:

June 25, 7:30 p.m.; June 26 at 7:30 p.m.; June 27 at 7:30 p.m.; June 28 at 2:00 p.m.

Visit VWCT.org or call the

box office at (419) 238-9689 for more information.

The Van Wert Civic Theatre invites the community to support these talented young performers as they bring this fun-filled musical to life. With catchy songs, energetic performances, and plenty of heart, Dear Edwina Jr. promises to be a memorable experience for the entire family.

PARKVIEW HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS STRONG PERFORMANCE IN STATE'S FIRST REVIEW OF DIRECT-TO-EMPLOYER ARRANGEMENTS

Parkview Health highlighted its performance in the Indiana Department of Health's inaugural Direct-to-Employer (DTE) Healthcare Arrangement Plan Review for 2025, underscoring its ongoing focus on providing high-quality care at the best cost.

New Indiana law requires nonprofit hospitals to demonstrate that their direct-to-employer plans remain at or below 260% of Medicare rates. Parkview DTE rates were dramatically lower than the state mandate at 203% of Medicare, and significantly lower than any other non-profit system operating in Fort Wayne. Parkview's DTE program, Parkview Employer Solutions, offers employers savings of more than 25% compared to commercial insurance networks, with plans priced well below the national average for hospital care, per the Kaiser Family Foundation.

Parkview Employer Solutions currently serves more than 65,000 employees and their families, with more than 4,800 employers locally and nationwide. The team brings together six integrated services to strengthen the financial health of employers and the physical and mental well-being of the people who power them. Services include:

- Signature Care: A comprehensive health plan network designed to manage costs while maintaining access to high-quality care.
- Employer clinics: On-site, shared or virtual clinics with fixed pricing and convenient access.
- Mental health: Counseling services, crisis response and support to help employees navigate personal and professional challenges.
- Occupational health: Workplace-focused medical services that support safety, compliance and injury management.
- Wellness programs: Tailored to each workforce and aligned with organizational goals to drive meaningful participation and measurable outcomes.
- Musculoskeletal care: Early intervention, injury prevention, workers' compensation and rehabilitation to help reduce pain, improve function and lower total spend.

Fort Wayne-based Three Rivers Federal Credit Union has partnered with Parkview Employer Solutions for about 18 months. The credit union has access to Parkview's Signature Care health plan for its 519 employees spanning from Angola to Pendleton to Richmond. It also takes advantage of shared employer clinics that offer convenient access to Parkview providers, pharmaceuticals, laboratory services and more for a single fixed per employee price.

The deadline for the West Bend News is THURSDAYS at 5pm for the following issue.
Send your news, ads, and classifieds to
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MILITARY HISTORY IN PAULDING COUNTY



By: Mark Holtsberry

Lloyd Aaron Sutton was born in Grover Hill, Ohio, on October 8, 1891. He was the son of Jacob Sutton, who was born on March 7, 1842, in Randolph County, Indiana, and Elizabeth "Lizzie" Ann (Kinkade) Sutton. Jacob had two previous wives who passed away: Isabella, who died in 1874, and Charlotte, who died in 1877. Jacob and Elizabeth were married on August 30, 1879, in Paulding.

By 1890, the Sutton family was living in Blue Creek Township, Paulding County. Jacob was a farmer. The couple were the parents of John, born in 1880; Cornelius, born in 1880; Catherine "Katie," born in 1882; Daisy, born in 1885; and twins Floyd and Lloyd, born in 1891. The older boys helped on the farm while the younger children attended school.

By 1906, Lloyd had quit school. By 1910, Jacob's daughter Daisy had married and moved away. Catherine and her husband, Warren Hadley, had moved in with Jacob and Elizabeth. Lloyd and Floyd remained at home, working on the farm.

On June 5, 1917, in Toledo, Lloyd registered for the World War I draft. He had been living in Toledo for several years, working as an inspector for a block-bearing company. Lloyd was described as short and slender, with brown eyes and dark hair, and was single.

Lloyd joined the National Army on June 27, 1918. He was assigned to the 24th Company, 6th Training Battalion, 158th Depot Brigade, where he served until July 19, 1918. On August 1, 1918, he was promoted to Private First Class and assigned to Com-

pany A, 333rd Infantry, serving until October 5, 1918. He was then transferred to Company E, 138th Infantry, where he served until his discharge. He served in the Meuse-Argonne sector and was slightly wounded in action on October 31, 1918. Lloyd received an honorable discharge on April 1, 1919.

After returning home, he met a young woman named Mary Ann Brenner. She was born on July 11, 1898, in Ohio. The couple married and moved to Latty, Ohio, by 1920, where Lloyd worked as a farm laborer.

Lloyd's father, Jacob, passed away on February 21, 1921, and was buried in Live Oak Cemetery. Lloyd and Mary's daughter, Kathryn, was born in 1920, followed by Lloyd D. in 1923, Gloria in



Lloyd Aaron Sutton

1925, Dorothy in 1927, and William in 1929. By 1930, the family was living at 406 North Cherry Street in Paulding.

Lloyd had become a mail carrier. By 1940, the Sutton family was still living at 406 North Cherry Street, and all of the children remained at home. In 1942, Lloyd registered for the World War II draft, although he was not selected because of his age.

On April 22, 1944, Lloyd passed away and was buried in Live Oak Cemetery. Mary later worked for the Division of Aid for the Aged in Paulding as a caseworker, retiring in 1959. She passed away on September 24, 1969, and was buried beside her husband in Live Oak Cemetery.

The youngest child, William, served in the United States Navy during the Korean War. He passed away in 2020 and was buried in Live Oak Cemetery.

...Until Next Time!

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.

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VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE'S AWARD BANQUET



Over 60 members, volunteers, performers, directors, designers, supporters and friends gathered at VWCT's awards banquet recently to celebrate the dedication and countless hours of hard work that made the 2025-2026 season one to remember. Merit, Outstanding and Excellence awards were given out to many individuals.

The production of the year was Bonnie and Clyde.

Trustee's Awards, determined by the Board of the Theatre, were given to Chad Kraner, Keith Allen and Terry Plas. For the second year in a row VWCT was able to give \$500 scholarships for graduating high school seniors or those attending college to Grace Spieles, Abbie Mengerink and Sofia Alvarado. Special awards were given to the AYAT (Adolescent and Young Adult Theatre) members involved with

the world premier of Looking Back written and scored by Perri Webb.

The evening concluded with 8 members of the cast of Dear Edwina, Jr., serenading the audience with Sing Your Own Song from the show. The show will be performed on June 25-28.

A complete list of winners can be found on vwct.org or on the theatre's Facebook page.

VAN WERT CIVIC THEATRE ANNOUNCES EXCITING 2026-2027 SEASON

The Van Wert Civic Theatre is excited to announce its 2026-2027 season, featuring a dynamic lineup of musicals, comedies, youth theatre productions, and moving drama. From laugh-

out-loud entertainment to heartfelt storytelling, the upcoming season offers something for audiences of all ages.

Season memberships are available now and continue to provide one of the best ways to experience all that VWCT has to offer. Members enjoy exclusive early ac-

cess to ticket

purchases before they are made available to the general public. For all productions, the box office will open two weeks prior to opening night.

AYAT Opens the Season with The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals

The season begins with

the Adolescent & Young Adult Theatre (AYAT) production of The Guy Who Didn't Like Musicals, written by Nick and Matt Lang with music and lyrics by Jeff Blim.

Directed by Alyssa Taylor, with Music Director Perri Webb and Choreographer Emily Gehle, this cult-favorite musical comedy follows Paul, an ordinary man whose dislike of musicals becomes a major problem when a mysterious plague transforms his town into a singing and dancing nightmare.

Packed with humor, horror, and unforgettable songs, the production will run July 23-26 and July 30-August 2, 2026.

Catch Me If You Can Takes Flight This Fall

This September, audiences can enjoy the Broadway hit Catch Me If You Can, directed by Jerry Zimmerman. Based on the true story of Frank Abagnale Jr. and the popular DreamWorks film, the musical follows one of history's most famous con artists as he impersonates a pilot, doctor, and lawyer while staying one step ahead of the FBI.

Featuring energetic dance numbers, a swinging 1960s-inspired score, and plenty of excitement, performances will take place September 17-20 and September 24-27, 2026. Auditions are scheduled for July 12 and 13.

Holiday Cheer Arrives

HUBER OPERA HOUSE RECEIVES GRANT FOR STAGE FLOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT



Congratulations to the Huber Opera House & Civic Center in Hicksville for receiving a \$2,000 grant from the Hicksville Community Fund, a fund under the umbrella of the Defiance Area Foundation. This grant will be

used for the stage floor replacement project taking place at the Opera House.

Pictured above are (l-r) Jim Schmidt - Hicksville Community Fund Founder and Chris Feichter - Director of Operations at the Huber.

with Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!)

The holiday season gets a comedic makeover with Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some!), directed by Joelle May. When three actors decide they have had enough of performing A Christmas Carol, they set out to perform every Christmas story ever told instead.

The result is a whirlwind of holiday classics, outrageous costumes, and non-stop laughter as the cast races through beloved seasonal favorites in a fast-paced 90-minute comedy. Performances are scheduled for December 10-13 and December 17-20, 2026. Auditions will be held October 18 and 19.

Youth Theatre Brings Inspiration with The Battle of Boat

VWCT's Youth Theatre takes center stage in early 2027 with The Battle of Boat, directed by Doug Grooms. Set during World War I, this inspiring musical follows a determined group of children who refuse to let their age stop them from making a difference.

Filled with adventure, friendship, and hope, the production showcases the talents of an all-youth cast and highlights the extraordinary things young people can accomplish when they work together. Performances run January 28-31 and February 4-7, 2027. Auditions will be held November 16 and 17, 2026.

The Tin Woman Closes the Season with Heart and Hope

The season concludes with Sean Grennan's acclaimed drama The Tin Woman, directed by Alyssa Taylor. Inspired by a true story, the play follows Joy, a heart transplant recipient who struggles to reconcile her gratitude with the loss that made her second chance possible.

As she seeks out the family of her donor, Joy embarks on a powerful journey of healing,

understanding, and connection. Blending humor with deeply emotional moments, The Tin Woman of-

fers a moving exploration of family, grief, and the courage to embrace life.

Performances are scheduled for April 22-25 and April 29-May 2, 2027. Auditions will be held February 28 and March 1, 2027.

A Season Filled with Adventure, Laughter, and Inspiration

The 2026-2027 season reflects the Van Wert Civic Theatre's commitment to providing high-quality entertainment and meaningful artistic experiences for the community. Whether audiences are looking for musical spectacle, holiday fun, family-friendly adventures, or thought-provoking drama, this season promises unforgettable moments on the VWCT stage.

For information on season memberships, tickets, auditions, and volunteer opportunities, visit vwct.org and follow Van Wert Civic Theatre on social media.

The curtain is set to rise on another exciting season, and VWCT invites the entire community to be part of the experience!

HAYDEN WAGNER GRADUATES FROM HEIDELBERG UNIVERSITY

Hayden Wagner of Antwerp, Ohio, is a member of the graduating Class of 2026 at Heidelberg University, graduating Cum Laude on May 9 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science.

A total of 196 undergraduate students received bachelor's degrees and 82 graduate students received degrees in counseling, business administration and athletic training.

Graduating senior Abigail Stine, who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, was selected to represent her classmates in delivering the student Commencement speech. Haylie Sewell, who received her MBA, represented graduate students. The class also heard from Alison Marker, President and CEO of Marker, Inc., who delivered the keynote address titled "Stay Human."

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

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

To the editor,
The Paulding County fair opened June 6 and like every summer, families here gathered for rides, food, 4-H barns, and the traditions like the FFA sausage sandwiches that have held our community together for generations.
It is easy to forget how close Ohio came to losing it. In 2020, the health director Amy Acton signed the orders that shut our state down. Shut

down Paulding County's small businesses. Our schools, churches, weddings, funerals and nursing homes.

Then, when the order to let Ohio's county and state fairs reopen reached her desk, in her own words, "this one order in particular was the final straw for me." Republicans fought back, and instead of allowing county fairs to happen, she simply quit.

Amy Acton shut down our fairs. Read that again. Not over inflation. Not over a budget. Over whether Ohio families could gather at our county fair at all.

Now she wants to run our state. Ohio deserves leaders who fight for our state, not one who quits when Republicans push back on her pseudo-science.

This November I am proud to stand with Vivek Ramaswamy for Governor of Ohio and the entire Republican slate—leaders who show up for communities like Paulding County and trust Ohioans to make their own decisions and live their own lives.

Laurie Lucas
Paulding County Republican Chair

RESEARCHERS REVEAL NEW METHOD FOR DIALING UP SUPERCONDUCTIVITY

Researchers have discovered evidence that superconductivity can be controlled by influencing the surrounding environment, a finding that may lead to more efficient electronics down the road, according to a new study.

Superconductivity, or the ability of certain materials to conduct electric currents without any energy loss when

cooled below a critical temperature, is a property still not very well understood. While a major challenge, understanding more about its formation mechanisms could lead to better, more long-lasting materials as well as more powerful quantum devices.

Led by Chun Ning (Jeanie) Lau, senior author of the study and a professor of physics at The Ohio State University, the research team constructed a special material called twisted bilayer graphene — a layer of carbon stacked onto another and rotated at a small angle.

By attaching the material to a man-made synthetic diamond called strontium titanate, Lau and colleagues were able to see and control how strongly electrons — tiny subatomic particles — in the system interacted with each other. Electron interactions that control properties like magnetic states and chemical bonding come in pairs, and by adjusting the "settings" of these pairs, the team was able to switch the

material's superconductivity on and off.

"Electrons normally repel each other, but in superconductors they form pairs; this pair formation is the key to a superconductor's ability to conduct electricity without dissipation," said Lau. "Our evidence suggests that electrons themselves, depending on their sensitivity to their nearby environment, are unexpectedly important for material changes."

The researchers were surprised to find that when they increased their adjustments, superconductivity had decreased. This result is different from conventional superconductors, where, if repelling forces between electrons are suppressed, the pairing gets stronger, highlighting the unusual nature of new materials like twisted bilayer graphene to successfully direct electricity.

"If you could transmit electricity without energy loss, that would be hugely important for technologies used in our everyday life,"

said Lau. "Despite the fundamental questions that still need answers, this work basically provides a path toward a new type of physics mechanism."

Such a discovery could help scientists develop materials that superconduct at higher temperatures — even room temperature, a "holy grail" in the field that, if achieved, could transform their current understanding of electronics, power transmission, and communications.

The study was published April 7 in the journal Nature Physics.

Overall, these results reveal a simpler way to control the conditions needed to create and control the atomic power behind superconductivity. For instance, because many high-temperature superconductors have limitations that cap their productivity, using the environment to drive their abilities could boost their power as well as allow scientists to build more efficient electronics.

These potential applications are not far off, according to Xueshi Gao, lead author of the study and a current PhD student in physics at Ohio State: He believes his team's findings will soon be useful to many different types of systems and experiments across the field.

"The mechanism of superconductivity in the twisted bilayer graphene system we used is still not well understood," said Gao. "But our result can shed light on and help people to better understand the concept when applying it to future work."

Still, the team emphasizes that the model is only an initial step toward understanding unexplored electronic interactions, and next steps will involve testing other types of interactions and investigating the various complex physics questions that their work opens up.

"We're showing capabilities that we haven't shown before, so many people in the field are getting really excited about this result," said Lau.

(Continued from Page 1)
porary drive to the hospital will be constructed on Ralston between U.S. 24 and Anthony Wayne Blvd.

State Route 15/Ottawa Avenue closure, Defiance – State Route 15 (Ottawa Avenue), between Ayersville Avenue and Agnes Street, in the city of Defiance, closed March 30 for approximately 142 days for a roadway reconstruction project. Local access will be maintained to properties within the work zone using one-way southbound travel. Estimated Completion: August 2026

Detour: State Route 111 to SR 637 to SR 66 to SR 613, back to SR 15.

New Maintenance Closure begins June 1 – State Route 18, between State Route 15 and the eastern corp line of Hicksville, will be closed for center line paving beginning Monday, June 1 through Thursday, June 11.

Detour: SR 15 to SR 249 to SR 2 and vise versa.

Paulding County:

U.S. 127 closure – U.S. 127 over Flatrock Creek in the village of Paulding closed May 11 for a bridge deck overlay. This work is now expected to exceed the expected 10 days to complete due to conditions of the bridge; estimated reopening is now June 19.

Detour: SR 613 to SR 637 to SR 111, back to U.S. 127

State Route 49, State Route

500, State Route 613 lane restrictions – State Route 49, State Route 500, and State Route 613 in the village of Payne will be restricted to alternating one-way through the work zone for resurfacing. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

State Route 500 closure – State Route 500 between the Indiana state line and the village of Payne may be restricted to alternating one-way through the work zone beginning for resurfacing. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

Putnam County:

U.S. 224 /State Route 65 closure and lane restrictions (Ottawa) – State Route 65 in the village of Ottawa will have the following traffic impacts for curb replacement, widening, and signal improvement project. Estimated completion: July 7, 2026.

• State Route 65/Elm Street between Second Street and Locust Street in the village of Ottawa is restricted to two 12-foot lanes. Turning movements will be restricted through the work zone.

• State Route 65 at U.S. 224 in the village of Ottawa will close Tuesday, June 16, for approximately 21 days.

State Route 65 lane restrictions – State Route 65 between the village of Leipsic and the Henry County line will be restricted to alternating one way through the work zone for pavement repairs. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

State Route 613/State Route 634 closure – State Route 613/State Route 634 will close between Road 22 and the village of Continental closed on Monday, June 22, for approximately five days for a culvert replacement.

SR 613 detour: SR 634 south to SR 114 to SR 694 to SR 115 to SR 15, back to SR 613

SR 634 detour: SR 114 to SR 694 to SR 115 to SR 15, to SR 613, back to SR 634

State Route 694 lane restrictions – State Route 694 between State Route 114 and State Route 115 will be restricted to alternating one way through the work zone for pavement repairs. Traffic will be maintained with flaggers.

Van Wert County:

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.

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: Sailors, 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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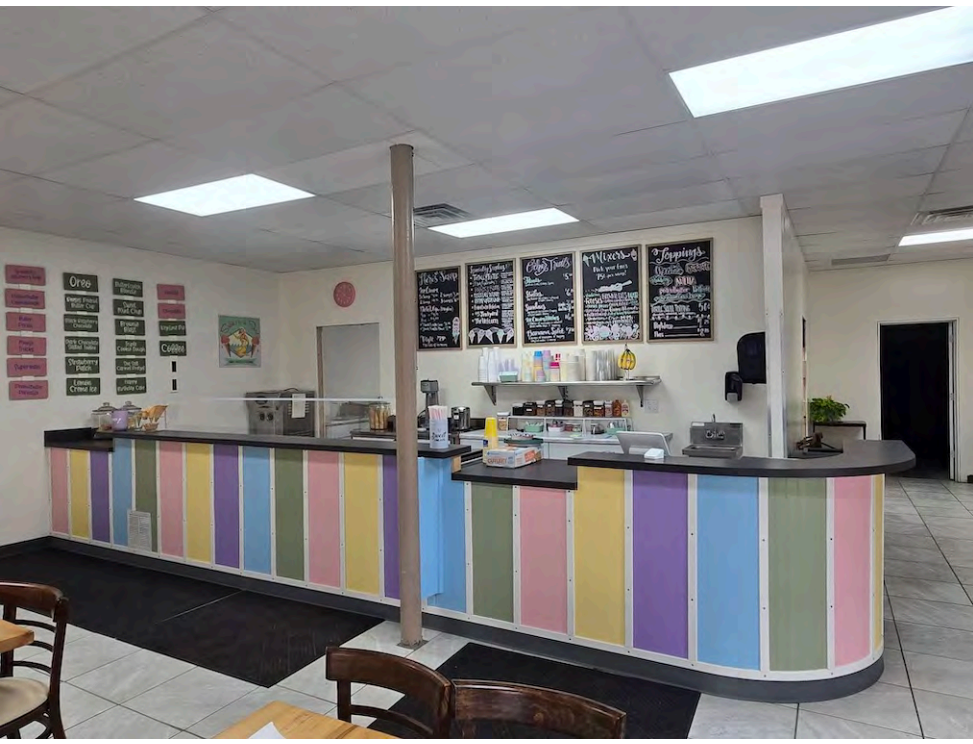
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ANTWERP CHAMBER BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: MAIN STREET CREAMERY & CAFE



ANTWERP — What began as a casual conversation between husband and wife has grown into one of downtown Antwerp's favorite gathering places.

When Christy Phillips learned that KB Scoops was for sale, she mentioned it to her husband, Dave. Before long, the couple found themselves embarking on an unexpected business adventure that would allow them to preserve a beloved community destination while adding their own personal touch.

Today, Main Street Creamery & Cafe continues to delight customers with premium ice cream, specialty sundaes and the welcoming atmosphere that has become its trademark.

"We are an ice cream shop on Main Street with specialty ice cream," Phillips explained. "We offer small-batch ice cream that I think is pretty special. We have specialty sundaes, and we love to tweak whatever ice cream or sundae you have to your taste. We offer all of that with a smile, friendliness and hometown care."

The business traces its roots to KB Scoops, which was established approximately six years ago by Matt and Kara Eicher. The building itself has a long history in Antwerp and has served many purposes over the years, including reportedly housing an IGA grocery store, restaurants and other businesses.

"We loved what Matt and Kara had created," Phillips said. "We always took our friends and family there when they visited from out of state. We didn't want it to disappear from the community. We wanted it to stay here in some capacity."

The Phillips family purchased both the business and

the historic building, which also contains a spacious upstairs apartment occupied by longtime tenants.

One of the things that sets Main Street Creamery & Cafe apart is its commitment to quality. About half of the shop's ice cream comes from Sally's by the Shore, a small-batch ice cream maker that creates flavors specifically for the store. The remainder comes from Guernsey Farms Dairy, a family-owned Michigan dairy known for its premium products.

Among the customer favorites is Grandpa's Blueberry Pie, a flavor inspired by the dairy owner's grandfather and his 100th birthday celebration. "We feel like we're offering high-quality ice cream," Phillips said. "We also have a cold stone, so we can do lots of mix-ins and customize things however customers want."

While the ice cream is a major draw, Phillips believes the atmosphere plays an equally important role.

"We've created a place where people can come and visit," she said. "You might meet a family member, a neighbor or someone you haven't seen in a while. It really has become a community place."

That sense of community is reflected in the shop's name. When the Phillips family took ownership, they changed the name to Main Street Creamery & Cafe to better represent the business's role in the heart of Antwerp.

"We wanted to embody that small-town feeling," Phillips said. "People have been very welcoming to us and to our business. I'm not originally from Antwerp, but my husband grew up here and we live on his family's farm. Owning the shop has really allowed me to get to know peo-

ple and feel like part of the community."

Customers return for more than just ice cream. Phillips credits the shop's success to consistent quality, fair prices, friendly service and a willingness to constantly introduce new flavors and offerings.

"We're pretty generous with samples," she laughed. "If we hear you ask about a flavor, we're probably going to ask if you'd like to try it."

The shop frequently rotates flavors, encouraging customers to discover new favorites while still maintaining popular staples.

Another hallmark of Main Street Creamery & Cafe is its homemade waffle cones. Phillips and her staff make them in-house, a labor-intensive process she believes is worth the effort.

This year, the shop added chocolate-dipped waffle cones and expanded its topping selection to include fresh strawberries, raspberries and customer-requested favorites like Captain Crunch cereal.

"We want to keep evolving and adding things," Phillips said. "If something works, we'll keep it. If it doesn't, we'll adjust. We're always looking for ways to improve."

Among the most cherished traditions carried over from previous generations of Antwerp ice cream shops is the inclusion of candy eyes and sprinkles.

A longtime customer reminded Phillips before opening that "you always have to have eyes and sprinkles."

At first, she thought the tradition originated with KB Scoops. Later, she learned it dated back even further to the depot ice cream shop that many longtime residents remember fondly.

Today, it remains a favorite among young customers.

"Some kids come in and just order 'eyes and sprinkles' and forget to tell us what flavor ice cream they want," Phillips said with a smile. "We know they're important."

Looking ahead, Main Street Creamery & Cafe has plans to continue growing. Phillips hopes to expand the cafe portion of the business with soups, salads and sandwiches while maintaining the quality and atmosphere customers have come to love.

Most of all, she hopes the shop continues to reflect the values of the community it serves.

"I love our little small town," Phillips said. "I want Antwerp to grow in a responsible way, and I hope people feel that sense of community when they come in here."

For Phillips, success isn't measured solely by the ice cream sold, but by the connections made across the counter every day — one scoop, one smile and one conversation at a time.

ADDITIONAL PAULDING COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR RESULTS PUBLISHED

The West Bend News recently published results from several divisions of the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair. After publication, additional results from the Rabbit divisions were identified as having been omitted from the original article. The following results are being published to ensure all exhibitors receive recognition for their accomplishments during this year's fair.



- Rabbit Division:
Single Fryer Classes:
Class 7 - 1st Mariano Reyes; 2nd Benson Slattman
Class 8 - 1st Alexandria Manz; 2nd Cole Manz
Class 9 - 1st Cora Bauble; 2nd Gabriella Stork
Class 10 - 1st Greysyn Hermler; 2nd Renee McCabe
Class 11 - 1st Maddock Wolfe; 2nd Baylor Kilgore
Class 12 - 1st Kallen Walters; 2nd Aubree Feehan
Class 13 - 1st Raegan McGarvey; 2nd Kiptyn Mills
Class 14 - 1st Michael Corwin; 2nd Rya Wirts
Class 15 - 1st Raegan McGarvey; 2nd Kendyl Sunday
Class 16 - 1st Kiptyn Mills; 2nd Piper Mills
Class 17 - 1st Skyler Pierce; 2nd Mallory Barker
Class 18 - 1st Duke Dangler; 2nd Jameson Reeb
Class 19 - 1st Ellie Roughton; 2nd Addison Clemens

The West Bend News regrets the omission of these results and congratulates all exhibitors on their achievements at the 2026 Paulding County Junior Fair.

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of West Bend News, the Paulding County Fair royalty article has some mistakes. This has been corrected for the online article. And is here below with the 2026 royalty photo. West Bend

News apologizes for this oversight.

Emily McClure was introduced as the 2026 Junior Fair Princess. She is the daughter of Brian and Nikki McClure. Garrett Wilhelm was named the 2026 Junior Fair Prince and is the son of Troy and Ashley Wilhelm.

Kendall Kohart, daughter of Andrew and Jessica Kohart, is a freshman at Paulding

High School. She is a member of the Black Swamp Junior Farmers 4-H Club and is active in Paulding 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.

JOY COMES LN THE MORNING



The picture was colored by my best friend.

By: James Neuhouser

I wake up this morning in a melancholy mood, we had plans on going to church but it just didn't happen. I listen to Psalms 111, and it speaks to me and I feel every emotion at once.

Some good news lately that changes my entire outlook on life. I listen to Psalms 111 to 130, which runs for well over an hour.

"Midnight shadows fill this bedroom, Fear keeps coursing through my mind. Tired eyes refuse their resting, Still I whisper desperate prayers."

Someone had suggested that I rewrite some of my highlights, and I would love to but new things keep coming up. For some reason I can't stop writing even though I might wish too. I've got a story in my head about the inventor of dynamite, Alfred Nobel. Such an amazing story that affected his entire life, and perhaps changed the course of history.

This week I had an epiphany. Something that I had probably thought about but this time it hit me. The difference between good and evil. Something that will tell you the difference. Most times it seems like evil is winning. It's always about 50-50. Sometimes evil seems to be leading but we already know who is going to win the game.

The difference is that good is eternal, infinite, evil is finite, i mi tot will end. I don't know if everything infinite is spiri-

tual, but everything that is spiritual is infinite. Let me give you an example of things on earth that are infinite.

Names are infinite, picking a name you could always add a letter or perhaps subtract one. The name Niceiana would be a good one. Every housing project is a name like River Creek.

"Lord please hear this broken cryin' Calm my shaking heart tonight. Stay beside this weary body, Carry me through darkest hours."

FIELD REPORTS FROM OHIO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE OFFICERS

Central Ohio - Wildlife District One

State Wildlife Officer Chad Grote, assigned to Marion County, and Natural Resources Officer Megan Morrisette patrolled Delaware Wildlife Area during the 2025-26 white-tailed deer gun hunting season. They observed an individual discard what appeared to be deer parts in the woods. When contacted, the individual claimed to be dumping deer parts for a friend who had taken the deer earlier in the week. The officer discovered the second individual had not completed the game check process for the harvested deer. The hunter was issued a summons for failing to game check a deer by noon the day after the harvest. The first individual was issued a sum-

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mons for state property litter, and the two individuals collected the deer parts for proper disposal. Both were found guilty in Delaware Municipal Court and paid a combined \$350 in fines.

This spring, State Wildlife Officer Matt Teders, assigned to Madison County, received a call from an angler at the Deer Creek State Park marina who observed a bird trapped in the natural resources officer's patrol boat. Officer Teders unlocked the boat's cabin and rescued a trapped prothonotary warbler. The warbler was released unharmed to continue its migration.

Northwest Ohio - Wildlife District Two

State Wildlife Officer Matt D. Smith, assigned to Huron County, received a complaint that someone had dumped a white-tailed deer carcass and other garbage next to the Huron River in Willard. Upon further investigation, Officer Smith determined a suspect. He contacted the individual, who was found to have dumped the deer, and issued a summons for stream littering. The individual paid \$350 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife Officer Brian Baker contacted a successful angler at the Huron Boat Ramp cleaning station and conducted a license and bag limit compliance check. After the contact, the officer noticed the individual struggling to clean fish with a new electric fillet knife. Officer Baker offered tips on cleaning the fish and the angler happily accepted the help. Officer Baker filleted several fish, demonstrating the cuts and angles needed to minimize waste.

Northeast Ohio - Wildlife District Three

During the 2025-26 white-tailed deer hunting season, State Wildlife Officer Randy White, assigned to Lorain County, responded to a complaint of an individual hunting after dark. The hunter was observed spotlighting a buck and shooting it using an arrow with an illuminatednock. Officer White determined that it was the hunter's second antlered deer for the season. The hunter was charged for multiple violations, the deer was forfeited, and the suspect paid more than \$2,800 in fines, court costs, and restitution.

This spring, law enforcement staff completed outreach to pet stores about preventing injurious aquatic invasive species from getting into Ohio's valuable water resources and negatively impacting native species. As a result, several aquarium clubs requested speakers for their monthly meetings. State Wildlife Investigator Jason Hadsell, assigned to Lake Erie, and Aquatic Habitat Biologist Josh Kocik attended a Medina County Aquarium Society meeting to discuss environmental and biological impacts and legal implications surrounding aquatic invasive species. The program was well received, and the outreach efforts have forged partnerships for the detection and prevention of invasive species throughout Ohio waters.

Southeast Ohio - Wildlife District Four

In early April, State Wildlife Officer Ted Witham, assigned to Jackson County, received information about a trash dump on Cooper Hollow Wildlife Area. Officer Witham located the litter in a parking area along the roadway. The next day he contacted a suspect and found the individual who had dumped the trash. The suspect was later found guilty in Jackson County Municipal Court and was ordered to pay \$235 in fines and court costs.

State Wildlife officer Jerrod Allison, assigned to Coshocton County, and Wildlife Officer Supervisor Brad St. Clair observed people fishing the spillway at Mohawk Dam. The officers watched several people leave trash along the shore when they were done fishing. The officers spoke with the individuals and issued two summonses for litter and one summons for fishing without a license.

Southwest Ohio - Wildlife District Five

State Wildlife Officer Brad Buening, assigned to Mercer County, received a call from a concerned citizen regarding the dumping of fish remains along Coldwater Creek, near a kayak and canoe launch area for Grand Lake St. Marys. Officer Buening investigated and found numerous catfish parts around the canoe launch. Officer Buening soon discovered a suspect dumping

fish parts in the same spot. The suspect was issued a summons for stream litter and was found guilty in Celina Municipal Court. The individual was ordered to pay \$203 in fines along with court costs of \$122.

State Wildlife Officers Jasmine Grossnickle, assigned to Miami County, Mathew Bourne, assigned to Clark County, and Alex Almeter, assigned to Greene County, along with Wildlife Officer Supervisor Matt Hunt, assisted with a youth fishing event at the District Five office for children from Dayton. In past years, the group had fished in streams and rivers around the area with limited success. Retired wildlife officer Trent Weaver connected the group leader with the Division of Wildlife to expand the group's opportunities. The group visited the District Five fishing ponds with approximately 30 children and chaperones. The trip was very successful, with all participants catching fish.

ELYSSA RENNER AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP FROM AGCREDIT



Elyssa Renner

AgCredit has announced the recipients of its 2026 Joe Leiser Memorial Scholarships. This year, AgCredit awarded \$25,000 distributed between twelve recipients to support their educational goals during the 2026-2027 academic year. Among them is Elyssa Renner, local to Van Wert County. Elyssa will attend Wright State University, majoring in Agriculture Business.

The scholarship program honors Joe Leiser, AgCredit's first president and CEO, who was known for his deep-rooted passion for agriculture and his commitment to doing what was right for farmers. Each year, the program awards scholarships to depen-

PAULDING COUNTY AREA FOUNDATION AWARDS GRANT TO SUPPORT YOUTH FOR CHRIST BREAKAWAY MINISTRY



The Paulding County Area Foundation is pleased to announce a grant award to Defiance Area Youth for Christ to help support Paulding County students attending the organization's BreakAway Ministry camp. The grant was awarded during the Foundation's December 2025 grant cycle for their Breakaway camp in June of 2026.

BreakAway is a one-night camp experience designed for students in grades 6-8 and serves as a key event in Youth for Christ's ministry year. The program provides young people with opportunities to build positive relationships, explore their faith, and develop connections with caring adult mentors and peers in a safe and encouraging environment.

Funding from the Paulding County Area Foundation will help offset the cost of attendance for Paulding County students, ensuring more local youth have the opportunity to participate in the experience regardless of financial circumstances.

"The Paulding County Area Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life throughout Paulding County by supporting programs that invest in our residents and strengthen our communities," said Lisa McClure, Foundation Director. "By helping local students participate in Youth for Christ's BreakAway Ministry, we are supporting opportunities that encourage personal growth, positive relationships, mentorship, and leadership

development among our youth. Investing in young people today helps build a stronger community for tomorrow."

The grant is one of several awarded during the Foundation's most recent grant cycle, reflecting the organization's ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of life for Paulding County residents through strategic investments in education, youth development, health, and community programs.

Learn more about the Paulding County Area Foundation please visit our website at www.pauldingcount-yareafoundation.com or to learn more about Defiance Youth for Christ please visit: www.defyfc.org

dent family members of AgCredit voting stockholders pursuing degrees in agriculture or related community-supported fields.

"Investing in students is an investment in the future of our industry," said President and CEO Brian Ricker. "These scholarship recipients embody the dedication, resilience, and integrity that drive meaningful progress in agriculture. By supporting their educational journeys, we are helping cultivate the next generation of leaders who will carry our mission forward and make a lasting impact in their communities."

About AgCredit

AgCredit is a cooperative lender and proud member of the Farm Credit System, which was created over 100 years ago to provide a reliable

source of credit for the nation's farmers and ranchers. AgCredit supports rural communities and agriculture with reliable, consistent credit and

financial services. For more information about AgCredit or its Joe Leiser Memorial Scholarship program, visit AgCredit.net.

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THE LEFT TURN



Colin Shipley won the DIRTcar UMP Late Model Feature at Oakshade Raceway Photo credit Charlie Orns.

By: Ron Burt

Oakshade Raceway
Wauseon, OH, Saturday,
June 13th – Colin Shipley
won the DIRTcar UMP Late
Model Race at Oakshade Sat-
urday night. He started on
the pole and for 25 laps
fought off his stepfather,
Rusty Schlenk, to get the win.
It really got interesting when
the two lead cars caught up
to slower traffic. Shipley had
some tough decisions to
make as he approached
heavy traffic running side by
side with the veteran
Schlenk. Colin began work-
ing through the lapped traf-
fic, but he couldn't separate
any from the experienced
veteran. After clearing the
first batch of lapped traffic,
the two drivers battled side
for the lead with Schlenk try-
ing to make the high side
work. Shipley hugged the low
side. The young driver stayed
focused, not making any
mistakes to fend off Schlenk
to earn the race win. Casey
Noonan finished third fol-
lowed by Carter Murday and
Devin Shiels.

Dylan Jessen survived a
close call to get the win in the
Late Model Sportsman fea-
ture to become the first (and
only) repeat winner this sea-
son in any class at Oakshade,
2nd Josh Robertson, 3rd Dy-
lan Hough, 4th Chris
Williams, and 5th Mike
Jessen. Dominator Stock
Feature 1st Jeff Foks Jr., 2nd
Mason Luttrell, 3rd Jake
Rendel, 4th Scott Hammer
and 5th Chane Stuckey.

Sport Compact Feature, 1st
Cory Gumm, 2nd Ryan Oku-
ley, 3rd James Stamper, 4th
Wesley Belkofer, and Adam
Thomas.

Here's Saturday's Feature
winners from Angola Motor-
sport Speedway, Saturday,
June 13th, Late Model
Tommy Cook, Modified
Brandon Pulver, Street
Stocks Lee Reed, Hornets
Corbin Henderson and Front
Wheel Drive Outlaws Derek
Simon.

Feature winners from Flat
Rock Speedway, Saturday,
June 13th Figure 8 Motor
City Madness 50, Billy Ear-
ley, Late Model Sportsman
Mike Young and track history
was made in the Street
Stocks. Regan Ford Sr won
the Street Stock feature in a
first-ever 1-2-3 for the Fords,
beating his brother Dan Ford
Jr in P2, and son Regan Ford
Jr in third.

On Friday, June 12th, at
Limaland Motorsports Park,
Luke Hall won the USAC
Thunder Midget feature at
Limaland in the Mike Stre-
icher Memorial. 2nd Bryce
Massingill, 3rd Chett
Gehrke, 4th Ian Creager, and
5th Dylan Trost. The Modi-
fied Mayhem feature for
UMP Modifieds went to Jeff
Koz, and it was his first fea-
ture Modified win of the sea-
son, 2nd Dustin Moore, 3rd
Brennan Sherman, 4th Dy-
lan Woodling, and 5th Drew
Charlson. Thunderstock
Feature Top 5, 1st Nick Bow-
ers, 2nd Todd Sherman, 3rd
Rob Trent, 4th Zach Rush,

and 5th Dan Wooten. Dirt
Truck Feature Top 5, Page
Perrine got his first career
DTTS win, 2nd Chris Hicks,
3rd Tony Anderson, 4th
Rolly Heyder, and 5th Bran-
don Dailey.

We are currently in the
middle of Ohio Sprint Week,
featuring the All Star Circuit
of Champions 410 Winged
Sprints. It all started at Attica
Raceway Park, on Friday,
June 12th. On the podium
1st Craig Mintz, 2nd Parker
Price Miller and 3rd Zeth
Sabo. Saturday night June
13th the Series went to
Sharon Speedway and the
top 3, 1st Zeth Sabo, 2nd
Dale Blaney and 3rd Leyton
Wagner. Sunday, June 14th
heavy rain canceled Mill-
stream in Findlay, and the
track didn't want the make-
up date. Monday, June 15,
the Series was at Wayne
County Speedway and your
podium was 1st Kalib Henry
2nd Darin Naida and 3rd
Brandon Spithaler. On Tues-
day, June 16th Eldora Speed-
way was rained out, with no
make-up date left. Thursday,
June 18th Waynesfield Race-
way Park had the best race of
the Series and the 3 drivers
on the podium 1st Chris An-
drews, 2nd Bryce Lucius and
3rd Nate Dussel. Friday the
Series goes to Fremont
Speedway. Atomic Speedway
was scheduled to have the fi-
nal race Saturday, June 21st.
This was posted by Atomic
Speedway 6/15/26 on their
Facebook page. "We're disap-
pointed by the decision made
to move the Ohio Sprint
Speedweek Finale from
Atomic Speedway, but unfor-
tunately these are the things
that happen with our current
situation. All presale tickets
for the event will be re-
funded". Ohio Sprint Week
will now wrap up at Wayne
County Speedway Saturday,
June 21st and pay the Feature
winner \$12,000.00. Until
next week, keep your wheels
down. Ron out!

FARM CREDIT MID-AMERICA ANNOUNCES 2026 SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Farm Credit Mid-Amer-
ica has selected 25 college
students from Delaware,
Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky,
Missouri, Ohio and Tennes-
see to participate in its 2026
Scholars Program, an initia-
tive designed to support and
develop the next generation
of leaders in agriculture and
rural communities.

Now in its tenth year, the
Farm Credit Mid-America
Scholars Program provides
rising college sophomores
and juniors with \$5,000 in fi-
nancial support over a two-
year period. In addition to
scholarship funds, scholars
participate in immersive,
week-long learning and
travel experiences that em-
phasize leadership develop-
ment, financial education
and community impact.

Students are selected for
the program based on aca-
demic performance, leader-
ship qualities, community
involvement and a demon-
strated passion for promot-
ing and advancing agricul-
ture. Eligible participants
must be pursuing degrees in
agriculture or fields related
to supporting rural commu-
nities.

"Our scholars come from
different paths and places
across rural America," said
Larry Gerber, head of hu-
man resources at Farm
Credit Mid-America. "What

CHILDREN'S LANTERN RECEIVES DAF GRANT FOR KINSHIP OF HOPE PROGRAM



Pictured are (l-r) Reagan Williams - Marketing and Communications Director, Steve Heilshorn - Executive Director, Chelsie Schroeder - DAF Marketing Director, Tonya Brisen - Family Care Coordinator and Daisy Moening - Office and Financial Administrator.

Congratulations to Chil-
dren's Lantern for receiving
a \$1,000 grant, during the
Defiance Area Foundation's
(DAF) spring grant cycle, for

their Kinship of Hope pro-
gram.

This program provides
funding in situations where a
grandparent or family mem-

ber are taking care of chil-
dren. This could include
bedding, clothing, school
supplies, etc.

connects them is a shared
passion for agriculture and
rural communities. We are
proud to support them as
they take the next steps for-
ward."

Scholarship funds will be
awarded by August 2026 for
the fall academic semester.

The Farm Credit Mid-
America Scholars Program
is one of many ways the co-
operative invests in the fu-
ture of agriculture. Over the
past decade, Farm Credit
Mid-America has awarded
more than \$2 million in
scholarships and experien-
tial learning experiences for
students pursuing careers
that help strengthen rural
America.

In 2025 alone, Farm
Credit Mid-America in-
vested more than \$4 million
in programs and partner-
ships aimed at creating a
more sustainable and pros-
perous future for rural com-
munities. Of that amount,
\$1.59 million directly sup-
ported youth, college stu-
dents and young and begin-
ning farmers.

The 2026 Scholars cohort
includes:

- Delaware: Luke
Michaud – University of
Kentucky
- Iowa: Leo Klemm –
Purdue University
- Indiana: Cassidy Wis-
chmeier – Purdue Univer-
sity, Janellyn Fisher – Purdue
University, Morgan Gamble
– Purdue University, Conner
Keeslar - Purdue University
- Kentucky: Nate Crumb-
ley – University of Kentucky,
Maddie Hedge – Murray
State University, Jacob Rudy
– University of Kentucky,
McKinley Brooks – Murray
State University, Mollie
Goode – University of Ken-
tucky, Mason Lovell – Uni-
versity of Tennessee - Mar-
tin, Tyren Harris –
University of Kentucky
- Missouri: Mikaela Rojas
– University of Missouri
- Ohio: Tessa Griffith –
Ohio State University,
Daniel Stacy – Ohio State
University, Soda Kiser –
University of Findlay, Derick
Findley – Ohio State Univer-
sity, Addie Naus – Wilming-
ton College, Anna Moeller –
Wilmington College,
Malainy Boes – Ohio State
University

- Tennessee: Carlos Al-
varez – University of Ten-
nessee - Knoxville, Slayton
Farrar – University of Ten-
nessee - Knoxville, Abigail
Whicker – Middle Tennes-
see State University, Casen
Austin – University of Ten-

nessee - Knoxville
For more information
about Farm Credit Mid-
America's College Scholars
program, visit [fcma.com/](http://fcma.com/community/investments/scholarships)
[community/investments/](http://community/investments/scholarships)
scholarships.

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 Beregszazi 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

WesBanco Bank, Inc, Plaintiff,
vs.

Jason M. Chester, ET AL., Defendants,

Case No. CI 26 061

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

**8983 Road 180, Antwerp,
Parcel Number: 14-29A-013-00 & 14-29A-012-00**

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 Ninety-Nine Thousand and NO/100 (\$99,000.00)
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 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. All bidders must be
registered with RealAuction for on-line bidding at:

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

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

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line
auction will be held on July 30, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. On this date, there will be no
minimum bid. However, the purchaser will be responsible for all 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

Kimberly D. Fulkerson, Attorney for Plaintiff

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657-5700 shop Woodburn, IN 46797

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15193 Rd. 45
Antwerp, Ohio 45813
419-506-1902
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Red, Brown and Black
Black Dirt, Small Gravel and
River Rock
Call for Special Orders

NINE COMPLETE LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY AT NORTHWEST STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Front L to R: Damitio, Nuttle, Ramirez, Rude. Back L to R: Moser, Wilhelm, Lerma, Robinson, Anastacio Hernandez

ARCHBOLD, OHIO – Nine graduates from the Northwest State Community College Law Enforcement Academy were honored on June 17th during a special evening ceremony. The class successfully completed both the state certification exam and the physical fitness requirements of the program. The eight graduates who have taken the 200-question Ohio

Peace Officer Training Association (OPOTA) Certification examination have successfully passed, which is a requirement to become a law enforcement officer in the State of Ohio. The following graduates were recognized: Ryan Damitio (Montpelier), Gonzalo Anastacio Hernandez (Wauseon), Elijah Lerma (Fayette), Garret Moser

(Stryker), Noelle Nuttle (Hicksville), Kevin Ramirez (Fremont), Jensyn Robinson (West Unity), Jeneatte Rude (Edgerton), Joshua Wilhelm (New Bavaria) Several students from the graduating class received additional recognition: Top Gun Award: Garret Moser Top Driver Award: Kevin Ramirez Top Test Score Award: Jeneatte Rude (93%!) Deputy Allen D. Ohlrich Outstanding Cadet Award: Jeneatte Rude

The Northwest State Community College Law Enforcement Academy is an eight-month program that is offered annually. Classes are held Monday through Thursday from 5:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. A new class is forming now and is scheduled to begin in August. For more information on the academy, contact the NSCC admissions team at 419.267.1320 or visit NorthwestState.edu online.

hour remediation notice before the village performs the work.

Council held first reading of an ordinance that would increase golf cart and under-speed vehicle inspection fees for non-residents. Under the proposal, village residents would continue paying \$25 for inspections, while non-residents would pay \$100.

The first reading was also held for an ordinance extending the village's agreement with Solicitor Brandon Grigsby for an additional two years beginning September 1, 2026.

Fiscal Officer Kevin Hornish reported that an ordinance involving a plat for Meyer Avenue and an associated resolution were removed from the agenda because related agreements had not yet been finalized.

During committee reports, council members discussed ongoing research regarding future village water rates and the upcoming Paragon water contract. Utilities Committee members said additional financial information is being gathered before recommendations are presented to council. Discussion included the possibility of a tiered water-rate structure, though officials noted such a system would add complexity to billing.

Administrator Davis informed council that a special meeting may be required before July 1 to approve a plat map associated with annexation property west of the village. The documentation must be submitted to the State of Ohio before the deadline.

In his report, Mayor Bryan Smith announced court revenues totaling \$2,005 for the month. He also congratulated former Mayor Jan Reeb on being selected as Antwerp's 2026 GEM of the Year. Mayor Smith also thanked Davis for his efforts in securing additional funding for Mervin Street improvements and the new park pavilion.

Smith recognized the success of the village's military memorial banner project, thanking numerous volunteers and community members for their efforts. He noted the project has grown so rapidly that additional banner brackets have been ordered and the village has begun working with AEP to utilize utility poles for future installations.

The mayor and council members also commended the Antwerp Community Development Committee (ACDC) for organizing another successful Antwerp Days celebration and encouraged residents to complete the event survey to help guide future improvements.

Council adjourned following the mayor's report.



Across

- Item specifically prohibited from being made from a flag.
- Time when the flag should normally be lowered if not illuminated.
- Position the flag should occupy when flown with state or organizational flags.
- Object that may be draped with the flag during military funerals.
- Manner in which the flag should be lowered.
- Rectangular field containing the stars.
- Annual observance celebrating the adoption of the U.S. flag on June 14.
- Surface the flag should never touch.
- Required when the flag is displayed at night.
- Type of flag permitted for display during inclement weather.
- The flag itself should not be worn as THIS.
- Condition signaled by displaying the flag upside down.

Down

- Central principle underlying the Flag Code.
- State whose admission created the current 50-star flag.
- Object that should never be made from an actual flag.
- Founding Father often credited with designing the flag.
- Current number representing the states.
- Another well-known nickname for the American flag popularized by William Driver, a sea captain.
- Time when the flag should normally first be displayed outdoors.
- Manner in which the flag should be raised.
- The flag should never be used as this for ceilings or walls.
- Disposable item that should not bear an actual flag.
- Side where the U.S. flag should be placed when displayed with other flags.

solution on page 11

THIS PUZZLE BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

PAULDING COUNTY HOSPITAL

Paulding County Hospital • 1035 West Wayne St. • Paulding, OH 45879
Antwerp Regional Health Ctr • 608 Erie Street • Antwerp, OH, 45813
Oakwood Medical Center • 109 N. First Street • Oakwood, OH 45873
Payne Medical Center • 301 South Main Street • Payne, OH 45880

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

IN THE COURT OF
COMMON PLEAS OF
PAULDING COUNTY, 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.

Harvey D. Hyman
Judge, Harvey D. Hyman

Darrell A. Hols, Jr.
Attorney for Petitioner
Weaver, H & 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://pauling.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>

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

In the event this property does not sell on the above date, a second on-line auction will be held on July 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.paulingohsheriff.com
Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

ANTWERP COUNCIL ACCEPTS \$60,000 GRANT, APPROVES CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Antwerp Village Council approved several ordinances during its June 10th meeting, including acceptance of a \$60,000 grant for street improvements and the adoption of a new cybersecurity policy required under state law.

Council unanimously approved an emergency ordinance accepting a \$60,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from Paulding County to assist with improvements to Mervin Street. Village Administrator Brian Davis noted the project is expected to cost approximately \$125,000, with the village responsible for the remaining balance.

Council also approved an emergency ordinance adopting a comprehensive cybersecurity policy for the village. The measure was necessary to comply with new cybersecurity requirements established by the State of Ohio.

A third emergency ordinance approved by council increases fees charged to property owners when the village must mow or maintain nuisance properties after violations are not corrected. The fee for lots under one-half acre was increased from \$150 to \$250, while larger lots will now be assessed \$350, up from \$250. The ordinance also requires a 72-

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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://pauling.sheriffsaleauction.ohio.gov>

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

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

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

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

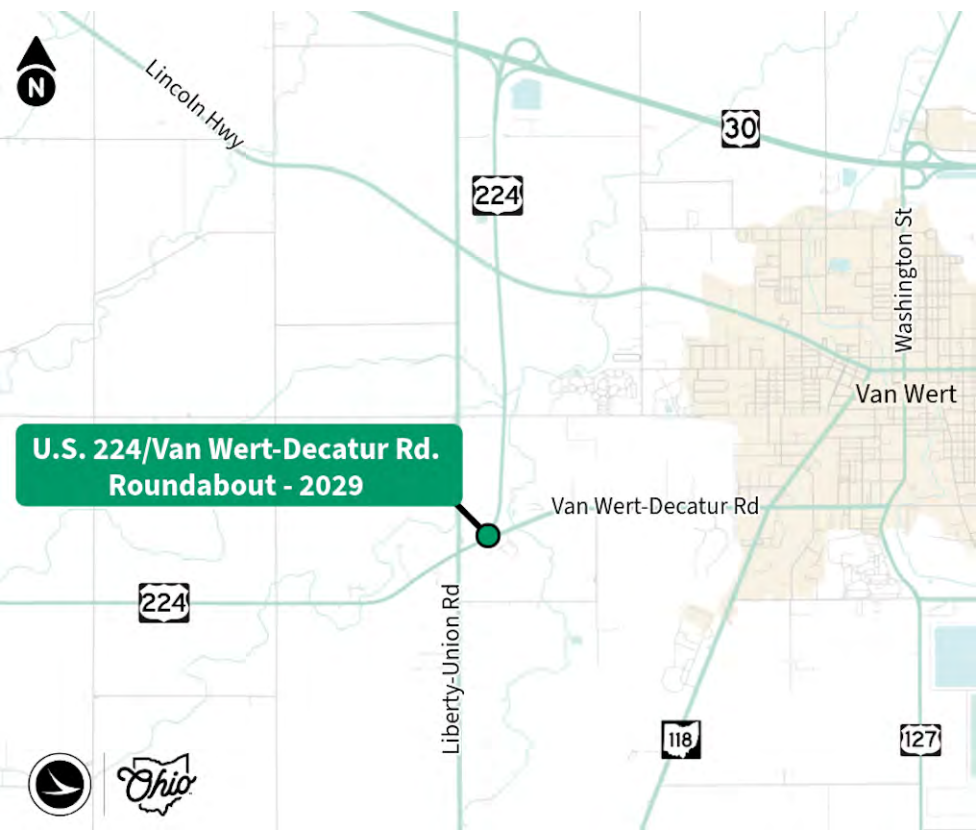
TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of Five Thousand and No/100 (\$5,000.00) Dollars will be due at the time of the sale. Balance of the purchase price shall be paid before the deed is recorded.

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

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

Sheriff Jason K. Landers
Paulding County, Ohio
www.paulingohsheriff.com
Mark R. Lembright, Attorney for Plaintiff

ODOT SEEKS FEEDBACK ON U.S. 224/VAN WERT-DECATUR RD ROUNDABOUT LAYOUT



Taking the next step forward, the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) District 1 is seeking public comments on a project to construct a roundabout at the intersection of U.S. 224 and Van Wert-Decatur Road, just west of the city of Van Wert.

In 2025, ODOT completed a safety study of the U.S. 224 and Van Wert-Decatur Road intersection to evaluate safety enhancement options such as a multi-way stop, traffic signal, or a roundabout. The study recommends transforming the three-legged T-intersection into a single-lane roundabout. Ohio's Highway Safety

Program is funding the project with construction slated for 2029.

Following a comparison of roundabout design options, ODOT recommends an off-center circular roundabout. The design allows for phased construction to reduce traffic impacts, requires temporary right-of-way (only for construction), and has the lowest construction cost.

Construction cost is estimated at \$3.58 million.

The public is encouraged to share their thoughts on the proposed design alternatives for the intersection by July 15, 2026. Comments regarding

the project will be accepted at any time, but those received by the deadline will be included in the official public input summary report. Public input will help shape the final design.

- Use the comment form on the project website or contact the project manager directly (see below).
- Requests for interpretation service or reasonable accommodation may be submitted through the project website or by contacting the project manager.

Visit the project webpage to view the design alternatives and to submit feedback.

PARKVIEW HEALTH & CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S FINALIZE JOINT OPERATING AGREEMENT TO ENHANCE PEDIATRIC CARE FOR FAMILIES IN NORTHERN INDIANA



(credit Cincinnati Children's & Parkview Health): Cincinnati Children's, which has over 1.7 million patient encounters annually across its three hospital campuses and 50 other sites, cares for local kids as well as patients from all 50 states and dozens of countries. Parkview Health comprises 15 hospitals plus a network of primary care and specialty physicians.

Parkview Health and Cincinnati Children's have finalized a joint operating

agreement to expand access to world-class pediatric healthcare for kids in Fort Wayne,

IN, and the surrounding region.

The new joint enterprise brings together the operations of Parkview's current pediatric hospital services, pediatric specialty services and pediatric primary care with the internationally recognized expertise of Cincinnati Children's. The jointly operated pediatric services will deliver emergency, inpatient and specialty care for kids, reducing patient transfers and related travel burdens for families.

Parkview's pediatric physicians and clinical teams will be supported by Cincinnati Children's, one of the world's most highly regarded pediatric health systems, enhancing Parkview's ability to manage more complex pediatric cases locally.

"Parkview Health and Cincinnati Children's believe this enhanced pediatric care will result in superior outcomes not only for families

in our region, but also those across northern Indiana and northwest Ohio," said Dr. Tony GiaQuinta, physician leader for pediatrics at Parkview Health. "We share a deep commitment to making high-quality care readily accessible to families. And as we work together to shape a new future for pediatric care in the region, we will continue to build on our strong existing relationship."

Cincinnati Children's mission includes collaborating with healthcare organizations such as Parkview to advance pediatric medicine and improve outcomes for all kids, noted Evaline Alessandrini, MD, chief operating officer of the Ohio-based system. This new collaboration does not include any of Cincinnati Children's existing pediatric operations outside of Parkview's pediatric service line.

"Our enhanced collaboration will significantly expand on the high quality and convenience of pediatric services Parkview Health already makes available to families in the Fort Wayne region," Alessandrini said.

Pediatric care is currently provided at Parkview Health hospitals as well as at pediatric and specialty clinics throughout the Indiana-based system. Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) is the region's leading provider of pediatric care, which includes a 27-bed inpatient unit, a seven-bed intensive care unit and a Level III neonatal intensive care unit. At Parkview Hospital Randallia, renovation is currently underway to expand the Family Birthing Center and construct a Level II Special Care Nursery.

Parkview also employs pediatric specialists who have long cared for children in Fort Wayne. The joint enterprise will provide these physicians with additional access to Cincinnati Children's subspecialty expertise, supporting and expanding the services already available to families.

"As a physician, I'm excited about what this means for the teams caring for children across Parkview every day," added Dr. Ray Dusman, president of physician and clinical enterprise, Parkview Health. "This collaboration gives our pediatricians, specialists and clinical teams greater access to Cincinnati Children's expertise and support, which helps us care for more kids locally, coordinate treatment more effectively and continue building the kind of pediatric care system families in our region deserve."

This enhanced collaboration will create new jobs, including clinical and support staff, with the number yet to be determined. Parkview currently employs more than 17,500 people, including more than 240 pediatric primary care or family medicine providers at over 45 locations, and approximately 40 pediatric specialists.

Cincinnati Children's has over 19,500 employees, including many of the world's leading pediatric surgeons, medical specialists, primary care doctors, nurses and scientists. The nation's leading pediatric health system has over 1.7 million patient encounters annually across its three hospital campuses and 50 other sites of care. Cincinnati Children's cares for local kids as well as patients from all 50 states and dozens of countries, including those with rare

WATTERSON SPEAKS TO KIWANIS



The Kiwanis Club was pleased to welcome Lynessa Watterson, the new Director of Paulding County Job & Family Services, during a recent meeting. She was introduced by Kiwanis member Lisa McClure.

Effective July 1, the previously consolidated Defiance and Paulding County Job & Family Services offices will separate in order to better serve their local communities and provide more focused, local support.

Watterson shared that she and her team will be working

closely with area schools, courts, and the sheriff's department to strengthen families throughout Paulding County. Some of the services provided by the agency include unemployment assistance, SNAP benefits, child and adult protective services, and Ohio Means Jobs programs.

The Paulding County Job & Family Services office is located at 252 Dooley Drive in Paulding and is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

or complex disorders.

The joint enterprise builds on the systems' established telehealth collaboration. In some cases, physicians at Parkview already consult with Cincinnati Children's specialists and also collaborate via telemedicine to provide pediatric neurosurgery, rheumatology, and drug-resistant epilepsy clinics. The two health systems, which are about 180 miles apart, initially began working together in 2011 to enhance pediatric trauma services in the Fort Wayne region.

In addition to the newly formed joint enterprise, Cincinnati Children's has begun advisory work with Parkview in an effort to open a dedicated pediatric emergency department at Parkview Regional Medical Center in 2027.

About Parkview Health
Parkview Health is a non-profit, community-focused health system serving Indiana and northwest Ohio with a mission to improve health and inspire well-being. Based in Fort Wayne, Parkview is northeast Indiana's largest employer with approximately 17,500 co-workers. Parkview Health includes 15 hospitals and an extensive network of primary care and specialty care physicians. The health system is making significant investments to expand access to care, including a new hospital in West Lafayette, expanded services in Grant County, and

a growing presence in Hamilton County, Ind., including a partnership with Riverview Health. It has also announced plans for affiliations with Goshen Health in Elkhart County and Witham Health Services in Boone County.

In 2019, Parkview committed to addressing healthcare affordability. Since then, it has renegotiated contracts with major insurers, introduced a direct-to-employer health plan that can save employers up to 25% compared to commercial insurance, and has grown lower cost care options like ambulatory surgery centers, outpatient facilities and hybrid care models.

Parkview consistently earns multiple "A" Hospital Safety Grades from The Leapfrog Group, is ranked among Indiana's Best Hospitals by U.S. News & World Report, recognized by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, and named NRC Health's No. 1 overall system for Excellence in Patient Experience among medium-sized health systems.

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ROHDY EARNS SCHOLARSHIP FOR FOOD SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING STUDIES



Pictured are (L to R) Chris Yoder - DAF Executive Director, Ella Rohdy - scholarship recipient and Sue Strausbaugh - scholarship fund creator.

The Defiance Area Foundation (DAF) recently awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to Ella Rohdy through the Erica J. Strausbaugh Culinary Arts/Food Science Scholarship Fund, held under the Foundation umbrella.

Rohdy is currently attending The Ohio State University, where she is pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering with a specialization in Food. She is expected to graduate in May 2027.

In addition to her studies, Rohdy is currently serving as a Food Safety Quality Intern

at General Mills, gaining hands-on experience in the food industry while continuing to pursue her academic and professional goals.

The Erica J. Strausbaugh Culinary Arts/Food Science Scholarship was established in memory of Erica Strausbaugh to support students pursuing careers connected to culinary arts, food science, and related fields. Through scholarships like this, the Defiance Area Foundation continues to invest in the future of local students and the industries that help strengthen communities.

MEMORIAL COLUMBARIUM PROJECT COMPLETE AS PHASE II & III ARE ADDED AT THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK



Fort Wayne, IN June 15th The Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum have announced the completion of the Columbarium Project at 2122 O'Day Road. The project was started almost 5 years ago with the hopes of providing a final resting place for Veterans and their families. The Columbarium required Indiana State approval which was granted in 2024 with the help of local legislators Martin Carbaugh and Justin Busch. The three piece columbarium contains niches for a capacity of 128 veterans.

Each niche contains the cremains of a veteran and one other.

Greg Bedford, Commander of the Veterans Memorial is beyond excited about

this memorial "We have worked for this opportunity for years and it has finally come to fruition. We have been selling niches for two years already and now the veterans who will be interred at this special place can now see the final pieces. Each section has a name...Honor, Courage and Valor. Veterans can choose the location of their final resting place in advance. It is an honor for all of us veterans who served our country!"

Bedford went on to say "We have had so many people involved in this project including Dave McComb, Amber Gonzalez and the folks at Coldspring in Minnesota who built the Columbarium. There

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.

Paulding County Health Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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are just too many people to thank in this release."

All proceeds from the sale of niches are placed in an endowment for the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum into perpetuity to ensure the longevity of the memorials on the property.

The Columbarium sits next to the Sterling Chapel in the Memorial Park at 2122 O'Day Road Fort Wayne. For information on purchasing a niche for a veteran you are asked to contact the Shrine office at 260-267-5022

PAULDING COUNTY COURT RECORDS

Criminal/Traffic Disposition Report

Haylee S. Tracy, Paulding, pleaded guilty to four counts of cruelty to animals. On Count A, she was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$443 in court costs. She was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 150 days suspended. Counts B, C, and D each carried 180-day jail sentences with 150 days suspended, to be served concurrently with Count A. Additional conditions included standard probation, an evaluation and completion of any recommended treatment, 20 hours of community service, completion of the Keeping It In Check class and an online course, a risk assessment, and a prohibition on possessing animals.

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

Daniel R. Akers, Grover Hill, pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct. He was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$122 in court costs.

Lindsay J. Akers, Grover Hill, pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct. She was fined \$25 and ordered to pay \$122 in court costs.

Josiah D. Akom, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

Igli Zela, Canton, Michigan, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

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Rayanna M. Kline, Paulding, pleaded guilty to failure to control. She was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Jimenez P. Barranco, Chicago, Illinois, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Terrance A. Oglesby, Gaffney, South Carolina, pleaded guilty to an over-width vehicle violation. He was fined \$70 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Wardell Wright, Edon, physical control was dismissed at the request of the state. Court costs were waived.

Cheryl A. Cramer, Napoleon, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. She was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Alexis R. Anderson, Indianapolis, Indiana, pleaded guilty to driving under suspension. She was fined \$100 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Jermain Stevenson, Toledo, pleaded guilty to domestic violence. He was fined \$250 and ordered to pay \$987 in court costs. Stevenson was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 150 days suspended. Additional conditions included standard probation, an evaluation and completion of treatment, no unlawful contact with the victim, 40 hours of community service, completion of the Keeping It In Check program, a risk assessment, and drug screens.

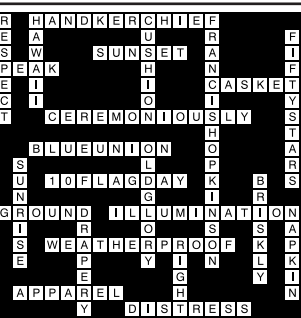
Jon C. Krebs, St. Marys, pleaded guilty to telecommunications harassment. He was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$517 in court costs. Krebs was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 179 days suspended. Conditions included no contact with the victim, no unlawful contact with a second victim, and maintaining good behavior.

Caleb D. Tracy, Paulding, pleaded guilty to non-support of dependents. He was fined \$50 and ordered to pay \$395 in court costs. Tracy was sentenced to 180 days in jail, all of which were suspended. He was placed on one year of probation and ordered to continue making child support payments and maintain good behavior. A second count of non-support of dependents was dismissed. He also pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct. He was fined \$50, with the fine suspended, and ordered to pay \$106 in court costs.

Johnathan R. Dooley, Waverly, unauthorized use, dismissed. Court costs of \$105 were assessed to the defendant. He pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle under the influence with a refusal. He was fined \$715 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs. Dooley was sentenced to 180 days in jail, with 170 days suspended, and his driver's license was suspended from March 10, 2026, through March 10, 2027. A charge of driving under a financial responsibility suspension was dismissed. He also had a parking on a public highway charge dismissed.

Michael Frempong, Alexandria, Virginia, pleaded guilty to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$150 and ordered to pay \$105 in court costs.

Rick H. Dobbelaere, Oakwood, pleaded no contest to operating an unsafe vehicle. He was fined \$70 and ordered



Crossword solution from page 9

to pay \$97 in court costs.

Alexis A. Flint, Paulding, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$62 in court costs.

Michael L. Keezer, Auburn, Indiana, pleaded guilty to a stop sign violation. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$100 in court costs.

Miriam L. Fowler, Northwood, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. She was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Mallory K. Atkins, Defiance, pleaded guilty to driving while texting. She was ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

Philip T. Wagner, Sherwood, pleaded guilty to a seat belt violation. He was fined \$30 and ordered to pay \$57 in court costs.

Kenan Sisic, Waterloo, Iowa, pleaded guilty to violating a no-thru-trucks restriction. He was fined \$55 and ordered to pay \$95 in court costs.

HELP WANTED

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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NORTHWESTERN OHIO COMMUNITY ACTION COMMISSION RECEIVING TWO GRANTS



John Henry Eldred Jr. FOUNDATION



Northwestern Ohio Community Action Commission (NOCAC) recently received notice from the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation that two NOCAC grant requests will be awarded in June 2026. The two grants will fund programming that has the potential to benefit people in Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Paulding, Van Wert, and Williams counties.

One of the two grants is for \$5,000 and will support NOCAC's PATH Center's Fresh & Healthy Foods Initiative. Kaylea Scott, NOCAC's Homeless Programs Manager shared the importance of funding healthy food, "When communities

have access to nutritious food, health outcomes, education, and economic resilience all improve. Healthy food is not a privilege; it is a basic foundation for thriving communities." This funding is significant as the PATH Center until now managed the soup kitchen serving a minimum of five community meals per week utilizing and stretching a total annual budget of \$1500 along with whatever donated food was available. The additional funding creates the ability to plan in advance even healthier meals incorporating fresh and local foods.

The second grant of \$30,000 will go towards NO-

CAC's Financial Opportunity Center's Housing Stability Through Financial Literacy, Credit Recovery, & Workforce Stability programming. Jamie Huber, NOCAC Director of Community Services shared, "When people have access to the resources and support they need to succeed, entire communities benefit. We are honored by the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation's support and their commitment to helping individuals and families build stronger financial futures and contribute to a more vibrant, thriving community."

As needs for NOCAC services continue to increase so does the need for funding. NOCAC is deeply appreciative that the John Henry Eldred Jr. Foundation recognizes and supports the value and commitment to community NOCAC programs continue to bring.

DEFIANCE POST INVESTIGATING COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CRASH ON STATE ROUTE 49

The Defiance Post of the Ohio State Highway Patrol is investigating a minor injury crash involving a commercial vehicle. The crash occurred yesterday at 3:55 p.m. on State Route 49, north of Edon in Florence Township, Williams County.

The preliminary investigation revealed a 2022 Freightliner commercial semi-tractor trailer, operated by Curtis W. Smith, 41, Pioneer, was traveling southbound on State Route 49, north of Edon. Smith went off the right side

BAUGHMAN TILE CONTINUES SUPPORT OF PAULDING VETERANS MEMORIAL PROJECT



Accepting the donation are L-R: Mike Kauser, member of the project committee; Eric Baughman, Baughman Tile; Marine Veteran John Daeger and Air Force Veteran Dan Wilder, members of the project committee.

The Baughman Tile Company recently made a second generous donation towards the Veteran's Memorial project in Paulding to honor

the wishes of the late Gene Baughman, an Army Veteran. Gene was an ardent supporter of the memorial, and it was his intention to ensure the memo-

rial's successful completion.

The memorial is nearing completion and a formal dedication is presently planned for Saturday, July 11th.

of the roadway, struck a utility pole, and drove back onto the roadway. As a result of the crash, the trailer caught fire. After getting the vehicle stopped, Smith unhooked the tractor and separated it from the burning trailer.

Smith was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

The commercial semi-tractor trailer was transporting paint products. Fire crews were on scene for several hours fighting the fire. The

crash created a power outage in the area, and the roadway remains closed due to extensive damage caused by the fire.

The Ohio State Highway Patrol was assisted on scene by the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, Williams County Sheriff's Office, Williams County Emergency Management Agency, Williams County EMS, Florence Township Fire, Montpelier Fire, Bryan Fire Hazmat Team, Toledo Edison, and Hutch's Towing and Recovery Services.

CULLY THOMPSON OF PAULDING NAMED TO UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SPRING 2026 DEANS LIST

Cully Thompson of Paulding was named to The University of Alabama Deans List for Spring Semester 2026.

A total of 14,306 students enrolled during Spring Semester 2026 at The University of Alabama were named to the dean's list with an academic record of 3.5 (or

above) or the president's list with an academic record of 4.0 (all A's).

The UA dean's and president's lists recognize full-time undergraduate students. The lists do not apply to graduate students or undergraduate students who take less than a full course load.

For more information visit news.ua.edu.

The University of Alabama, part of The University of Alabama System, is the state's flagship university. UA shapes a better world through its teaching, research and service. With a global reputation for excellence, UA provides a forward-thinking environment and over 200 degree programs on a beautiful, student-centered campus. A leader in cutting-edge research, UA advances discovery, creative inquiry and knowledge through more than 30 research centers. As the state's largest higher education institution, UA drives economic growth in Alabama and beyond.



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